

Birthday girl resists urge to fly off the starting handle

It is hard to imagine Lady Olga Maitland succumbing to road rage. Slim, poised and expensively dressed, the Conservative MP for Sutton & Cheam speaks in the cut-glass tones we might hear from the partially wound-down window of a well-kept (one private owner) 1960s Mercedes convertible, asking the way to Ascot.

It was therefore puzzling that Lady Olga chose her Question to Transport ministers yesterday to ask about road rage. Lady Olga — road

rage? Chic-pique, at the very most. We soon discovered it was not road rage Lady Maitland really wished to discuss.

Glaring at Clare Short, Labour's Transport spokesman, she told minister Steve Norris that if millions of unhappy motorists had been forced to take to London's roads yesterday, and tempers frayed, this was the fault of the rail unions who had brought London Underground to a halt, and the Labour Party who by their silence had condoned it. Fair-

minded Lady Olga stopped just short of charging Clare Short with personal responsibility for the recent fatal stabbing on a motorway slip-road.

Ms Short glared back. One of the nice things about this feisty Brummie MP is that, whistled at by a smirking male driver, you can actually imagine her jumping out of her Transit van and biffing him on the nose.

Mr Norris told Lady Olga she was *absolutely* right about the Labour Party.

Smooth-tongued Mr Norris is the sort of chap who would be more likely to *cause* road rage than exhibit it himself. Slipping down the hard shoulder in his BMW, past solid lines of stationary traffic on the M1, chatting on his mobile phone.

Norris obliged. He had tried cycling, he said, "but all I seem to get are shouted obscenities from London taxi

drivers". Given that the two things most likely to provoke a cabbie to fury are the sight of a cyclist, and the sight of a transport minister, to see both rolled into one must be a provocation too far.

But — *beep-beep* — who was this bell-coupling up behind us? It was Dame Elaine Kellet-Bowman, who still drives an ancient Morris Minor to and from her constituency of Lancaster every weekend. We can picture her: 40 mph on the M6, middle lane, road rage all around her.

unconcerned as she listens to *The Archers* on her valve-radio. It was Dame Elaine's 72nd birthday and she had chosen for the occasion a sketchwriter, who has heard Elaine Kellet-Bowman heckling the Labour Mayor of Brighton during his welcoming speech at a Tory Party Conference, the thought of Dame wielding a starting handle — even at the age of five in 1929 — chills the blood.

Mr Norris wished Dame Elaine a happy birthday. We all do.

Fresh blow for chances of Budget tax cuts

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHARLES BRENNER

TORY MPs' dwindling hopes for substantial tax cuts in the next Budget will suffer a further blow today with the publication of Treasury figures showing public borrowing overshooting by some £5 billion.

With the Right increasingly divided over whether Kenneth Clarke should deliver cuts, today's summer forecast suggesting a shortfall equivalent to about 2½p off income tax will underline his limited options.

The forecast comes at the same time as the European Union gave a new warning that the Chancellor cannot afford any tax cuts in November.

The expected revision upwards of this year's public sector borrowing requirement from the forecast £22.5 billion prompted a call from Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, for Mr Clarke to explain the "black hole" in the Government's finances. Mr Brown said that last year the Government was £8 billion out in its calculations of revenues from personal and corporate taxation and VAT.

Mr Clarke said that "his boffins got their estimates wrong". Mr Brown said, but it was time the country was told the full truth about the parlous state of the public finances.

EU finance ministers yesterday endorsed a report from their monetary committee warning that fresh tax cuts would make it too difficult for Britain to meet the tight budgetary targets needed to sign up to a single currency.

Mr Clarke, engaged on a prolonged campaign to dispel expectations, said in Brussels that "I am not prepared to go for tax cuts come what may". He said the vast majority of

Tory MPs agreed that tax cuts should be made only if they were consistent with controls on public spending.

He received strong backing from his predecessor, Norman Lamont, who said it would be "idiotic" to offer big tax cuts as an election bribe. John Redwood, the former Welsh Secretary and Tory party leadership contender, has called for big cuts funded by sharp spending reductions.

The monetary committee named Britain as one of 12 states deemed to need a tougher fiscal policy to bring its deficits under the so-called Maastricht target of 3 per cent of gross domestic product.

It noted that the Government's deficit forecast of 4.5 per cent of GDP in 1995-6 had been over-optimistic. "There would appear to be no room for relaxation in revenue and expenditure policy given the weaker-than-expected trend in revenues. Continued tight control of expenditure will be necessary."

Mr Clarke said: "Tax cuts are a very good thing, but you only get tax cuts when firstly, you have got your spending under control, still respect your priority spending commitments, and have got your borrowing on a firm downward path." He said the recommendations were in line with government policy and that the committee's findings did not tell him anything he did not already know. He was "entirely content" with them.

Mr Lamont also backed the criteria as sound advice, even if Britain was not going to join the single currency. "It may be possible to have tax cuts provided they are matched by public spending cuts, he said.

Peter Riddell, page II



A lorry burns in Portadown yesterday, set alight by loyalists protesting at the ban on Sunday's Orange march

Shooting victim's family blames Unionist leaders

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE family of Michael McGoldrick, the Roman Catholic taxi driver who was shot dead in a suspected sectarian attack, yesterday blamed his death on Unionist leaders who made "fire and brimstone" speeches.

The 31-year-old mature student was found slumped over the steering wheel of his taxi. A statement issued on behalf of his wife, Sadie, who is five months pregnant, and daughter Emma, seven, made a thinly veiled attack on the Rev Ian Paisley and accused politicians of whipping up loyalists in the Portadown area.

The statement said: "The politicians must bear some responsibility for this because

they have been mouthing off too much lately. Fire and brimstone speeches have featured much in this situation. Their loose talk has cost this young fellow his life."

Mr McGoldrick's family said that any other "innocent young lad" could have been shot by the gunman. They then appealed for calm, adding: "We do not want any retaliation. They just shot an innocent fellow doing a night's work."

Hardline loyalist terrorists from mid-Ulster were suspected of shooting Mr McGoldrick in the back of the head in the early hours of yesterday morning. His body was found just after 7am slumped over the steering wheel of his taxi in a country lane on the outskirts of Lurgan, Co Armagh, close to Portadown. The gunman had asked the taxi to meet him at the Centrepoint cinema complex in Lurgan just after midnight yesterday.

Although the RUC would not speculate on a motive for the killing, the shooting bore all the hallmarks of a sectarian murder by loyalist terrorists.

Friends paid warm tributes yesterday to Mr McGoldrick, 31, who was married with a young daughter, and who had just graduated from Queen's University Belfast. Mr

McGoldrick was born and raised in Glasgow where he worked as a psychiatric nurse until he moved to Lurgan seven years ago when he married.

His parish priest described Mr McGoldrick as a "good-living young man" who was dedicated to his family. Father Terry Rafferty said: "Michael and Sadie were a great witness to love. He was a very dedicated family man who worked hard for them all."

Mr McGoldrick had been working part-time as a taxi driver for the last year while he studied for a BA in English and politics at Queen's. He hoped to become teacher.

Dr Jim Martin, his tutor at Queen's University, said: "It is a great tragedy that someone who has just graduated, and had so much to offer, has been so brutally wiped out. He was particularly conscientious and put a lot of work."

A colleague of Mr McGoldrick at the Catholic taxi firm in Lurgan, who did not want to give his name for security reasons, said yesterday that drivers were now fearful of a renewed round of sectarian attacks by loyalists.

He said: "We are all very nervous at the moment. You are only 10p away from being killed because that is all it takes to order a taxi."

Continued from page 1
have been drafted into the Portadown area in a huge security operation.

The renewed disturbances yesterday came as loyalists staged a series of protests throughout Northern Ireland in support of the Orangemen at Drumcree. Loyalists set fire to a van and cars close to the centre of Portadown as Orangemen blocked off the town centre. Loyalists also raided a showroom in Ballymena, Co Antrim, where they burnt 50 vehicles and damaged 25.

The political fallout from the protest worsened yesterday when the Ulster Unionists announced that they would not join the multiparty talks at Stormont until the stand-off was resolved. The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, who told the loyalists that their protest was "worth fighting for and worth dying for", vowed that the Orangemen would stand firm.

The stand-off, dubbed by Orangemen as the "Siege of Drumcree", has come to symbolise to Unionists the essence of their struggle. They believe that the nationalist opposition to their march along the Garvagh Road is a glaring example of a concerted attempt by Sinn Fein and the Social Democratic and Labour Party to unsettle Unionism. They also say that the decision by Sir Hugh Annesley, the Chief Constable of the RUC, to route their parade highlights they way the authorities bow to pressure from republicans.

Mr Major's decision to rule out changes in the top ranks means that ministers such as Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, who have been mentioned as candidates for removal, appear to be safe.

Mr Major has been aware of Sir Patrick's impending retirement for some time but told him that he wants him to carry on while the peace process is in such a sensitive stage. Whitehall sources dismiss any suggestions that he would be a "lame duck Secretary of State" after his announcement that he is to give up his seat of Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Sir Patrick's decision to leave one of the safer Tory seats will spark a stream of applications from candidates.

The news that the Cabinet will not be given a facelift will disappoint some Tory MPs, particularly those who were unhappy with Mr Hogg's handling of the beef crisis. But Mr Major is reluctant to ask ministers to take on a fresh Cabinet brief only months away from the election. Ministers believe they are more at risk of making gaffes in their early days in a new job.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tube strike halts 60% of services

Commuters faced a day of travel disruption yesterday as London Underground drivers staged a third strike over working hours.

London Transport said that about 40 per cent of Tube services were running, the highest level since the industrial action started two weeks ago. Several lines operated a near-normal service. Motorway organisations said that there were few problems on the roads.

Leaders of the Aslef train drivers' union will meet today to discuss their next move, including the possibility of escalating the action.

Jockey injured

The jockey Anthea Farrell was seriously injured when the horse she was riding collapsed and died while re-hearing for a pageant in Harrogate. She was taken to hospital with head and other injuries and was described last night as comfortable.

20-year car ban

A persistent drunk driver who went on a binge after being diagnosed HIV-positive was jailed for six months and banned for 20 years by a Horseferry Road magistrate, William Alcock, 31, of South Kensington, London, admitted seven offences.

Horse sees red

Vandals have daubed red paint on the Westbury White Horse above the village of Bratton, Wiltshire. The incident follows similar damage to the stone circles at Avebury and the 15th-century St Michael's Tower on Glastonbury Tor, Somerset.

Winning streak

William Hill paid £2,000 to punters who placed bets on Wimbledon seeing its first streaker, the bookmakers said. The highest bet was £20. The odds on a repeat performance next year of Sunday's streak have been cut to evens. Wimbledon, pages 46-48

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Mackay

Continued from page 1
he acted unlawfully when setting a 15-year jail term for the boys who killed James Bulger.

Judges, Lord Mackay said, were free to speak out on matters of public debate and had increasingly done so since he lifted a ban in 1989.

He was not convinced by arguments one or two judges had advanced that there may be a higher order of law against which judges can measure Acts of Parliament and, if necessary, strike them down.

He also warned that incorporating the European Convention or creating a Bill of Rights — as favoured by many senior judges and by Labour — would mean judges would find themselves measuring policy against abstract principles, which had implication for social and economic policy — the preserve of Parliament.

Another danger was it would require a change in the criteria for appointing judges, and make political stance as important as judging ability.

That raised the question whether public confidence could be maintained in judicial independence and impartiality, or whether the appointment of judges should be subjected to "political scrutiny" of the sort seen in the United States.

Camelot earns £4m in prize interest

By CAROL MIDDLEBY

CAMELOT faced further anger over its large profits yesterday after it emerged that it has earned £4.4 million in interest from unused lottery prizes.

There were demands for a review of the rules surrounding interest from undistributed money which critics said should go to good causes rather than Camelot.

The sum has come largely from cash set aside for the Instants scratchcards, whose sales have slumped partly because of newspaper cards.

From a peak of 44 million a week a year ago sales are down to less than 18 million. With fewer winners, the glut of unused prize money is estimated at £13.25 million.

Although that money will be handed to the good causes, the regulations say that Camelot can keep the interest earned on it while it is held in the bank. The lottery operator cannot, however, keep interest earned from prizes which have been won but remain unclaimed because that money is effectively someone else's property. Last month

Camelot announced profits of £77 million, which includes the £4.4 million.

Yesterday the Labour MP Joe Ashton, a member of the Heritage Select Committee, said there was already widespread public concern over Camelot's profits. "Few people would disagree that interest raised from unused lottery prizes should go to charity not the lottery bosses."

"The rules should be changed not only in this area but in others. For instance 25 per cent of the profits are paid to the good causes but that 25 per cent can balance out over seven years. In some instances they are paying out less now, about 22 and 23 per cent, and storing up for years five, six and seven," he said.

A spokeswoman for Ofot, the lottery regulator, said Camelot's licence was up for renewal in 2001 when changes could be made. But she defended the existing rules: "While it is right to say that under the licence framework Camelot can keep interest earned on prize shortfalls, it is not right to say that in doing so it deprives the good causes of money."

NatWest Interest rates

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 9 July 1996:

	Savings	Gross Rate per annum	Gross CAR	Net Rate per annum

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Police question father of girl, 9, found battered to death on rail line

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE father of Jade Matthews, the nine-year-old girl found battered to death on a railway line yesterday, has been arrested and questioned by detectives. Police are also trying to trace three boys who were seen playing in the area where Jade's body was found. Detective Superintendent Geoff MacDonald, who is heading the murder inquiry, said Alan Priest, 34, who is not known to have contacted his daughter since he separated from her mother three years ago, was being interviewed as part of routine inquiries.

Jade from Bootle, Merseyside, was last seen by her mother when she went out to play at 4pm on Sunday. Police were called when she failed to return and her body was found lying in a pool of blood next to a rarely used railway siding in Bootle in the early hours of yesterday.

The boys, aged between nine and ten, were seen near the railway line at 8pm on Sunday but police emphasised last night that they had no reason to believe they were implicated in the crime.

Mr MacDonald confirmed that Jade had not been sexually attacked and post-mortem results showed she was hit around the head and died from these injuries.

Jade should have been doing a sponsored skipping race for heart research yesterday afternoon with her classmates at Orrell County Primary School, Bootle.

She had spent the past few days collecting sponsorship from neighbours but yesterday the event was cancelled and Jade's schoolfriends said prayers for their murdered friend in a special assembly.

Bob Branch, headmaster of the 350-pupil school, said staff and pupils were extremely shocked and distressed by Jade's death. Mr Branch, 43, heard about the death of a schoolgirl in Bootle on his car radio yesterday morning as he

drove to work. He hoped against hope that it was not one of his pupils but arrived at the school to learn of Jade's death.

"This is a close-knit community, everybody is affected by Jade's death, everyone will be hugging their children tighter tonight," he said. "Jade was a very bouncy girl, full of energy, full of life and very athletic. She always had a smile on her face and was well liked."

He said Jade had been looking forward to doing well in the charity event: "Our



Branch: hoped victim was not his pupil

mother, Denise, and her step-father, Stephen Matthews, 37, said: "The memory of the Bulger killing still weighs heavily on us."

Mrs Matthews raised the alarm at about her missing daughter at 9pm. Residents from the neighbourhood helped to search for Jade on Sunday evening. The family lived in a mid-terrace house and neighbours saw Jade playing with their children in her home street and adjoining roads almost every day. Many of their children attended the same school as Jade.

Police launched a full-scale search of the neighbourhood and a police dog handler discovered her body lying alongside the track at about 12.30am yesterday.

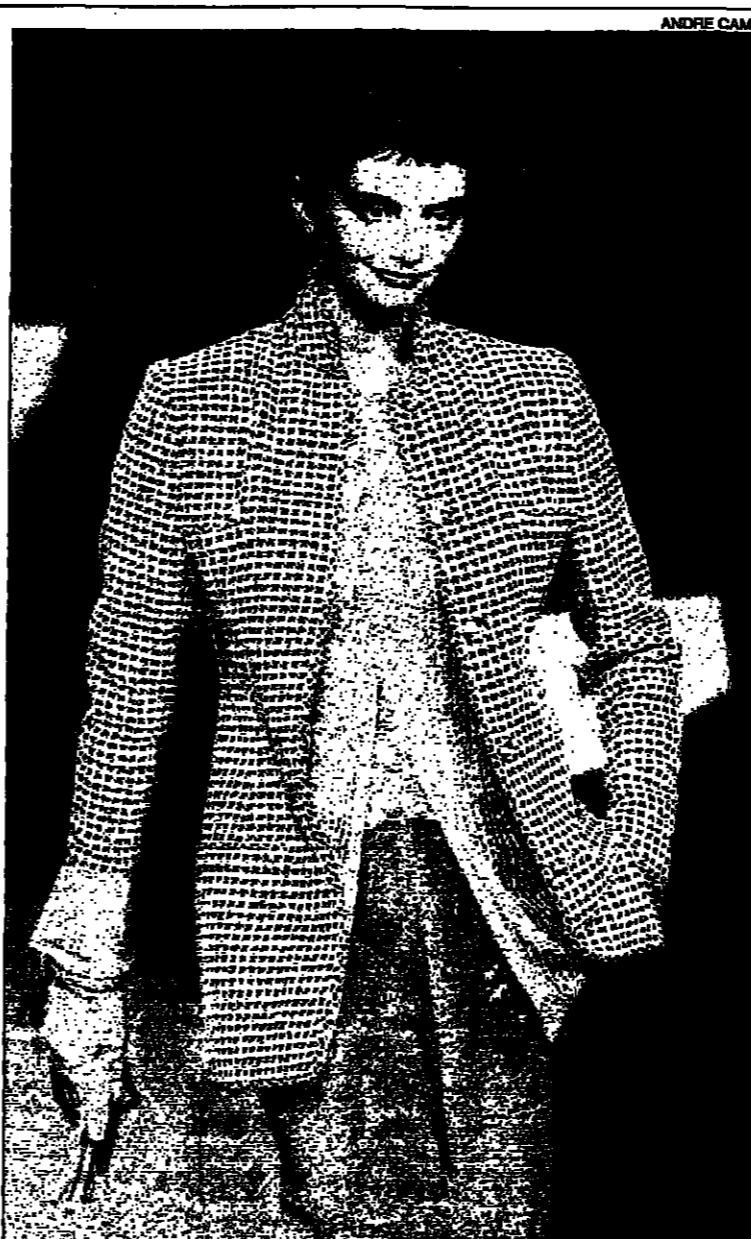
She suffered severe facial injuries, which Mr MacDonald said appeared to be consistent with her having been beaten with a blunt instrument. Forensic experts are examining a number of blood-stained items found at the scene, including a plant of wood.

Jade was found dressed in the pink sweatshirt with black trim around the neck and flower motif, blue jeans and white training shoes that she had been wearing when she left home.

The railway line is set in a bushy isolated area and is overlooked by Securicor and Parcel Force depots. A path runs along the railway line and is regularly used by adults for walking but is not an area associated with children's play.

Yesterday parents, some of them in tears, huddled in groups in the streets holding on to their children. It is a neighbourhood of small council terraces, with adjoining front and back gardens, where everyone knows each other, where people stop to chat over the garden fence and where people are still haunted by the death of James Bulger.

Up against the pair are Naomi Campbell and Helena Christensen, the only two old-style "supermodels" to make an impression this week.



Honor Fraser, left, the star of Ungaro's show, and Naomi Campbell in a patterned dress with matching coat by Christian Dior

BY GRACE BRADBERRY
STYLE EDITOR

THE Paris couture shows are a war zone this week, as thin Amazonian models battle it out with older, more curvaceous women to be the queens of the catwalk. The Amazonians are winning.

The models of the moment are Honor Fraser and Stella Tennant, two aristocratic Englishwomen who are tall, very thin and have an androgynous look.

Fraser, the first out at yesterday's Ungaro show, was also chosen to wear Valentino's signature red dress at the end. "It's suddenly happened for me," she said. "I've had a lot of bookings." The 22-year-old sister of Lord Lovat, she began modelling four years ago, following in the footsteps of her cousin Tennant.

Up against the pair are Naomi Campbell and Helena Christensen, the only two old-style "supermodels" to make an impression this week.

Campbell looked triumphant as she stood by Versace's side at the end of his Saturday show, but she has not dominated since.

Christensen, clearly feeling beleaguered, has suggested that designers are looking for aliens this year, rather than women. Claudia Schiffer has not yet appeared. The buzz among fashion editors had been that she would model in the Chanel show for the designer Karl Lagerfeld. But not this year. Lagerfeld has another favourite now: Tennant, who has an advertising contract with Chanel and will dominate today's catwalk show.

Schiffer has gone elsewhere. "She has an exclusive contract with Yves Saint Laurent," said Rudi Char-

thin as she stepped out at the Grand Hotel yesterday, before an unusually packed audience for the last Ungaro show before the company becomes part of Ferragamo.

The Italian shoe company announced it was buying Ungaro last week. As well as impossibly slim suits, Ungaro featured ball gowns with billowing over-skirts covered in flowers.

There were scarcely enough seats at yesterday's Christian Dior show either, as Gianfranco Ferré put on his last couture show. In another upheaval in the world of haute couture, Dior has announced that Ferré's contract will not be renewed by mutual agreement.

Among those who gave a standing ovation to Ferré's Arabian Nights' creations were Mme Chirac and Mme Pompidou, and the most prominent face on the front rows this week, Mouna al-Ayoub, recently divorced from a Saudi businessman and with alimony to spend.

Amazonians are the height of style

Headmaster denies sex attacks

THE former headmaster of a boarding school indecently assaulted six boys in their dormitories at night, it was alleged yesterday.

Robert Hay, 42, denied seven offences between August 1992 and June 1995 when he appeared before Bristol Crown Court. The alleged victims were aged nine to 12 and one was indecently assaulted twice. Robert Duval, for the prosecution, said.

Until he resigned as headmaster, Mr Hay, who moved to an undisclosed address, had breached the trust placed in him by parents and children, Mr Duval said. Video interviews of the children gave to police and social workers would be played to the court, and they would be cross-examined by video-link.

One boy, frightened after an alleged indecent assault by Mr Hay, spoke to others, and rumours spread to staff. One member of staff overheard the boy speaking to Chidline from a public telephone in the school, saying he was "scared and frightened" by someone he had to face in class later.

In June last year the school's deputy head told Mr Hay of the allegations and he denied anything untoward. Mr Hay was arrested the next month but denied all the specific allegations put to him.

The school, in South West England, cannot be named. The trial continues.

Private eye's wife 'recruited hitmen to kill husband'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PRIVATE detective was murdered by two hitmen who had been hired by his wife, a court was told yesterday. Ann Trigwell had a boyfriend and stood to gain about £380,000 from bonds and insurance policies on the death of her husband, Barry, Birmingham Crown Court was told.

That together with her lover was a particularly heady cocktail and incentive. He was worth a great deal more to her than alive," Timothy Raggatt, QC, for the prosecution, said.

The court was told that Mr Trigwell, 43, was not a "glamorous television private investigator" but carried out mostly "routine and harmless" matrimonial and child custody work for the legal profession after buying the franchise for the Birmingham-based Nationwide Investigations.

He had no known enemies, but was battered to death with a heavy blunt instrument at the home he shared with his wife in Walmley, West Midlands, in February last year. Mr Raggatt said: "He was killed to order in order as a result of a plan. His death has been paid for. It was cold-blooded and very, very carefully planned."

It was alleged that when Mrs Trigwell, 43, visited her home country of South Africa she enlisted the services of

erred a package containing a key and £300 to the hotel.

The jury was told that there was no sign of forced entry at the dead man's home. Mr Raggatt said: "All his valuables, apart from his cigarette lighter, were left behind.

When his body was found there was £500 still there. There was no sign of a struggle. He was killed efficiently, quickly and without fuss."

Mr Trigwell was hit very hard on the head at least twice, blows that shattered his skull and killed him outright, the court was told. He was then dragged upstairs where he was placed in a bath filled with water.

Mr Raggatt said that if Mrs Trigwell had hired the hitmen "she is as guilty of his murder as if she had beaten him to death herself". He said that the three men were still at large in South Africa, "for the moment outside the reach of our law".

Mrs Trigwell had an alibi of "enormous proportions" as she was 6,000 miles away at the time of her husband's death, he said. "She had plenty of time to rehearse the part of grieving widow. But the whole thing was a sham from beginning to end and the grief was synthetic."

Mrs Trigwell denies murder. The trial continues.

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Conman set up fake air ambulance

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A CONFIDENCE trickster who set up a fake international air ambulance service to cheat a hospital out of more than £370,000 was jailed yesterday for seven years. Richard Sage, 34, funded a lavish lifestyle by persuading West Lambeth Health Authority in London that his Surrey-based company Belmont Air and Road Ambulance Services was transporting patients around the world.

He hoodwinked St Thomas's Hospital's private patients department out of £376,670 despite having an earlier conviction for defrauding a hospital. The money was enough to run an NHS ward for a year. Southwark Crown Court was told. Sage of Woking, Surrey, admitted 11 charges of obtaining property by deception, conspiracy and fraud. Passing

sentence, Judge Rivlin, QC, described Sage as a "professional practised confidence trickster" whose crime was aggravated because it targeted precious public funds intended for the honest use of the health service and the benefit of its patients".

Patrick Upward, QC, for the prosecution, said the former funeral director began his deception in October 1992. He persuaded the hospital to pay contracts in advance, telling them they would be reimbursed by an American medical insurance company, First Response Incorporated. The pretence was supported by company letterheads and documents.

But the company was simply a telephone answering service and mailing address in Michigan. Invoices arrived for the transport of patients from Tangier, Zurich, Málaga and America. The non-

existent patients included a clergyman and a baby.

In October 1992 hospital managers became suspicious after receiving no money from First Response. Sage spent £6,000 flying them to Chicago, where they were met by chauffeur-driven limousine and put up at the Sheraton Hotel but never met the director they were to see.

When doctors asked for a demonstration of the air ambulance he brought them to Heathrow Airport, told them the patient's trip was cancelled at the last minute and flew them to Paris for the day at a cost of £3,265.

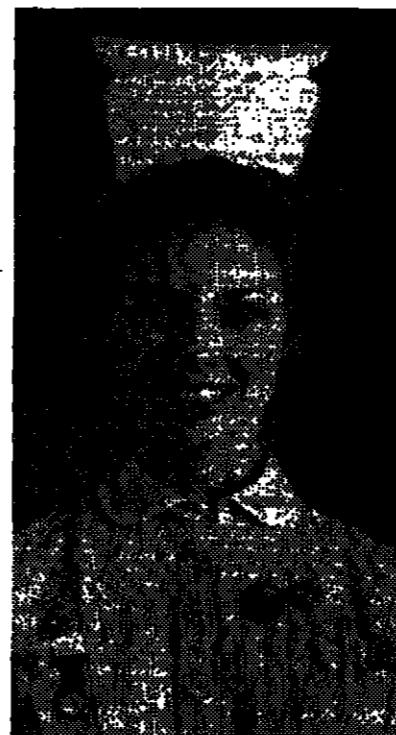
Michael Moffatt, 36, unemployed, of Northampton, admitted aiding and abetting Sage to obtain £35,000 by deception. He will be sentenced after the trial of a third defendant, who cannot be named for legal reasons.

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Johnnie Walker

BA plans to shut its Gatwick base if pilots strike

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS is planning to shut much of its Gatwick operation if next week's pilots' strike goes ahead. The BA board has given Bob Ayling, the chief executive, its support for the move which could throw several thousand people out of work and wreck plans to turn Gatwick into an international hub for air travellers.

Attempts were made yesterday to reopen negotiations between both sides in the dispute, as thousands of business travellers, tour operators and holidaymakers tried to rebook flights on packed rival

At the root of the problem is BA's determination to make Gatwick a low-cost operation with wages well below those at Heathrow. The company says that "yield" — the amount of money generated per seat — is much lower from Gatwick than Heathrow and that costs, including wages, must therefore be lower.

Although all other groups among BA's 46,000 British-based staff have accepted a 3.6 per cent pay deal, the 3,164 pilots and flight engineers who belong to the British Air Line Pilots' Association

[Balpa] have not. They have also rejected an increase of 10 per cent on top of the 3.6 per cent in the basic pay of Gatwick-based crew, saying that they already earn more than that in overtime. Other pilots are convinced that BA intends eventually to force everyone into line with the lower salaries at Gatwick.

Balpa says BA agreed that once Gatwick began to make a profit its pilots' pay would gradually increase. In the past two years Gatwick has greatly expanded and now Euro

Gatwick — created after BA took over Dan-Air — flies to 36 destinations with 175 flights a day, and employs more than twice as many pilots as the 120 it took on originally.

To the BA accountants Gatwick was suddenly looking like a success story. In the two years to 1995 Euro Gatwick made £19 million operating profit. However, BA has invested heavily and has yet to make a net profit from its Gatwick operations.

Balpa yesterday asked to meet Mr Ayling. "We have some suggestions to make to the company and we hope they have too which will enable us both to move forward," Chris

Reading article, page 19

Dark, Balpa's general secretary. Attempts to recruit unemployed former Balpa members seemed doomed to fail because of the lack of work permits and administrative difficulties of operating in the UK.

BA has not yet decided what to do with its 120 pilots based in Britain, but it is thought to be considering the option to "black" any crew to use non-Balpa crews. There is little chance of being able to provide all but a fraction of BA's normal network of services.

There are also no spare aircraft available on the leasing market, apart from a few ageing TriStars. To retrain experienced pilots whose licences may have expired would take a minimum of six weeks.

Balpa said: "It is quite simple if they don't reach a settlement with us before July 16, no planes will fly."



American replica of the 18th-century Royal Navy frigate HMS Rose passing through Tower Bridge yesterday. The original Rose is at Bridgeport, Connecticut, where it is used as a sail-training ship.

SEAN DEMPSEY

Resentful employee sabotaged computer

By ADRIAN LEE

A DISGRUNTLED worker who brought one of Britain's leading companies to a standstill by sabotaging its computer system was jailed for a year yesterday.

Thorn UK lost business worth more than £500,000 after Jeremy Feltis, 35, unplugged leads causing computers to crash, Reading Crown Court was told.

The shutdown left Thorn unable to process orders from 1,125 electrical shops and 29 distribution centres. A trouble-shooter called in from the United States to Thorn's headquarters in Theale, Berkshire, discovered that the system had been tampered with. A video camera was installed and Feltis was caught.

The court was told that Feltis, who has a young son, had suffered a breakdown because of long hours spent working and commuting. He also had a grudge against his supervisor. Feltis, of Walthamstow, east London, admitted three charges of unauthorised modification of computer material last year.

Footballer denies assault over woman

By ADRIAN LEE



THE Manchester United player Nicky Butt butted a man in the lavatory at a Chinese restaurant during a long-running feud over a woman, a court was told yesterday.

The attack by Butt, 21, who played 31 league games for United's championship-winning team last season, left Peter Oldbury, 26, with a broken nose, it was alleged. Butt denies assault.

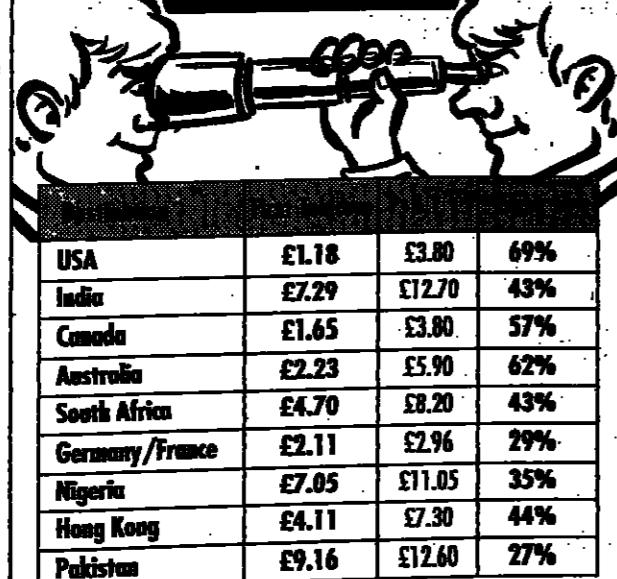
The men had at different times dated the same woman, Shelley Barlow. Stuart Denny, defending Butt, said that Mr Oldbury had dated Miss Barlow for about three months from April 1993 while still going out with his long-standing girlfriend.

Mr Oldbury admitted he "disliked" Miss Barlow after the relationship ended and gave evidence against her in court in February 1995 on charges under the Data Protection Act. She was cleared. He alleged that the day before he was due to give evidence against Miss Barlow, Butt threatened to "slit his throat" and "blow up his house".

Mr Denny suggested that on the night of the alleged assault, last October, Mr Oldbury followed Butt and tried to provoke him. He said: "This was a deliberate attempt to frame Mr Butt. This case is all about getting back at Shelley Barlow and her boyfriend Nicky Butt. What you want to achieve is to see Mr Butt prosecuted and to get money out of him."

Mr Oldbury denied confiding in a friend that he had set out to provoke Butt. The trial at Manchester Crown Court continues.

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News Release

01 July 1996

ACCESS BRAND AND NATWEST INTERNATIONAL IN NEW AGREEMENT

NotWest and the other Access shareholding banks have entered into an agreement with MasterCard International.

Under the terms of the agreement, the shareholding banks will replace Access cards with MasterCard cards upon expiry. NotWest is making this change because the MasterCard name and symbol are known much more widely across the world than Access. Bearing in mind the increasing frequency with which our customers travel abroad, we feel that it would be in their long-term interests to hold a card which has a wider international recognition.

The process of changing over to MasterCard will start on 1 September 1996. From that date, when a NotWest Access card is next due for replacement, customers will receive in its place a card with a new NotWest MasterCard design. Until their Access card is replaced, customers should continue to use it wherever the MasterCard or Access sign is displayed.

The shareholding banks have also agreed with MasterCard International a programme of removing the Access symbol from retail outlets over the next few months. However, NotWest Access cards remain fully valid and will continue to be accepted wherever the MasterCard symbol is displayed.

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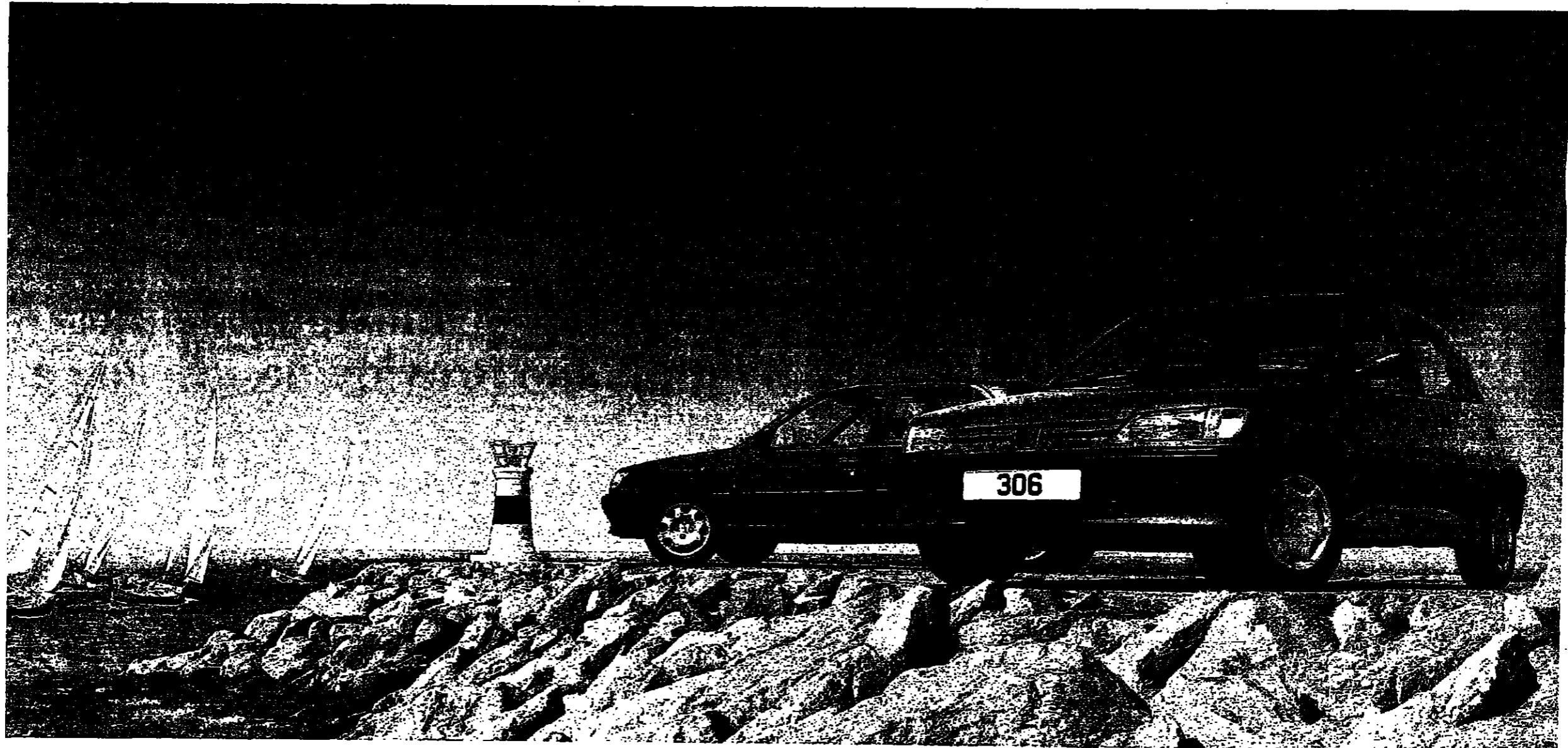
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The other addition to the Peugeot 306 fleet is the "Spinnaker".

You'll enjoy its electric sunroof and electric front windows when the sun's over the yard-arm. But the power assisted steering means you'll never break into a sweat.

Another five door model, the "Spinnaker" offers a choice of 1.6 litre petrol, or 1.9 litre turbo diesel power.

Like the "Genoa," the "Spinnaker" features

unique badging and comes in stunning Tropical green or Sigma blue metallic paint.

And the drive-away prices* for both have hit the deck.

The "Genoa" is priced at £10,795; while the "Spinnaker" is available from just £11,895.

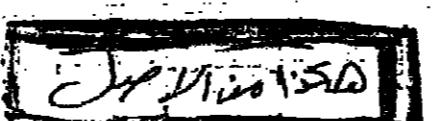
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Mandela visit shaped by rigours of Robben Island

By ALAN HAMILTON

TWENTY-SEVEN years of prison rigour on Robben Island have helped shape the programme for President Mandela's historic four-day state visit to Britain, which begins today. Freedom has not cured the 78-year-old elder statesman of rising at 5.30am and being in bed by ten.

Thousands of people are expected on the streets of London to see Mr Mandela, whereas the average state visitor barely earns a second glance. But on at least one occasion his legion of admirers will have to be up with the lark to catch him, when he plays a tree in St James's Park at 7.30am tomorrow. His early hours have also meant that tonight's state banquet has been forwarded by half an hour to ensure that it ends by 10pm.

Mr Mandela was due to arrive in London on a flight from Johannesburg late last night, and to spend his first night in Britain privately at the Dorchester to recover. Accom-

panied by his married daughter, Princess Zenani Mandela-Dlamini, the President will spend the rest of his stay in the even grander surroundings of the Belgian Suite at Buckingham Palace.

The ground-floor suite consists of two double bedrooms with bathrooms and a connecting sitting room. It overlooks the secret palace gardens and staff have been told to expect to find their distinguished guests strolling on the lawn before most of London is awake.

Mr Mandela's visit begins officially at 12.40pm today, when he arrives by car at Horse Guards Parade to be met by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. The stands erected for Trooping the Colour are open for the expected crowds.

The Queen and the President then make the traditional carriage drive down The Mall to a private lunch with members of the Royal Family at Buckingham Palace. During his visit Mr Mandela will meet every senior member of the family except the Princess of Wales.

Tomorrow Mr Mandela receives an early call at the Palace from

WHERE TO SEE PRESIDENT MANDELA

TODAY: Official welcome on Horse Guards Parade, 12.40pm. Spectators admitted between 11.30am and noon; ample free seating. Immediately followed by carriage procession in The Mall to arrive at Buckingham Palace gates, 1pm.

TOMORROW: Tree planting in St James's Park, 7.30am. Arrival at Downing Street, 11.30am.

THURSDAY: Arrival at Westminster Hall, 11am. Arrival at Royal Albert Hall, 7.30pm.

FRIDAY: Arrival at Brixton Recreation Centre, Brixton Station Road, 10.15am, followed by walkabout if crowds permit. Walkabout in Trafalgar Square beginning at 11.40am, followed by balcony appearance at South Africa House at noon.

breakfast at the Bank of England, again in pursuit of inward investment for South Africa.

He will then address both Houses of Parliament, the first visiting head of state to do so in the historic confines of Westminster Hall since President de Gaulle in 1960.

There will also be a return lunch for the Queen at the Dorchester, a meeting with Paddy Ashdown and

most charismatic statesmen, but not before he has had breakfast at the Palace with the Most Rev Trevor Huddleston, the veteran anti-apartheid campaigner. In the morning he goes with the Prince of Wales to Brixton to see the work of the Prince's Trust. In a planned walkabout afterwards, he is likely to be mobbed. He then returns to Trafalgar Square and goes walkabout again in the direction of South Africa House, the scene of so many demonstrations demanding his release.

The state visit will end with a triumphant appearance by Mr Mandela, the first South African President to make a state visit to Britain, on the balcony of South Africa House. For a few brief and glorious minutes, he is likely to bring London to its feet, and to a standstill.

Dennis Worrall, page 18
Leading article, page 19
Focus on South Africa, pages 32, 33

When the Black Pimpernel came to dinner on secret trip

MARY BENSON, 76, a friend of President Mandela since the early days, told yesterday how she gave him guided tour of London in 1962, when he was the "Black Pimpernel", leader of the ANC's underground struggle and South Africa's most wanted man.

"One Thursday evening in June 1962 I was expecting Oliver Tambo, then vice-president of the ANC, for dinner, but when I opened the door there was Nelson Mandela standing beside him. I can't think what I gave them to eat, because I am a very indistinct cook, but it was quite an extraordinary evening. My flat is tiny, about ten feet by ten, and Mandela was pacing up and down, talking about the tour of Africa he had made after being smuggled out of South Africa.

"He had been visiting the different countries raising support and funds for education and getting some military training, though he never in fact made any use of that. He talked so excitedly and with such enthusiasm it was unforgettable."

Mrs Benson, an author and journalist who had been close to many of the senior ANC figures from the start of the anti-apartheid movement, was born in Pretoria. She had



In 1962 South Africa's most wanted man arrived on the London doorstep of the journalist Mary Benson, left. She recalls their meeting to Robin Young

worked for the Treason Trials Defence Fund in Johannesburg before the London meeting with Mr Mandela.

She continued: "The following Sunday, June 17, he had a day off and his friends Freda and Leon Levinson took him sightseeing. I went along with my camera. We did a tour of Westminster. He was in a mood of tremendous exhilaration. We could not go inside the buildings. Parliament was closed, and there was a service in the abbey.

"He had to be cautious because he was a wanted rebel, and it was supposed to be a secret visit, but he was delighted to be taken to Westminster and to have his photograph taken outside Parliament with a statue of Oliver

Cromwell in the background. In his own memoirs he says he shared a joke with Oliver Tambo about the statue of General Smuts in Parliament Square, saying that perhaps some day they would have their own statue there instead.

"In fact that must be a mistake because Oliver was not with us that day. It may have been something they said to each other later, or a joke that we made together because I have always thought Smuts looks as if he is ice-skating.

Her memoirs, *A Far Cry*, have just been reissued and her biography, *Nelson Mandela: the Man and the Movement*, was published in 1994. She will meet President Mandela again at a tea party for South Africans on Friday.

Tony Blair, before addressing a Confederation of British Industry conference on investment in South Africa at the Barbican. Business is high on the President's agenda, with Britain the largest single foreign investor in his country, and exports from Britain at £1.8 billion a year and rising. The topic will arise again when Mr Mandela moves on to Downing Street for talks and lunch with John Major and senior government figures.

Tomorrow afternoon's event has no precedent and has the Lord Chamberlain and his protocol ex-

perts pondering over the correct procedure. So many universities want to confer honorary degrees on Mr Mandela that a unique mass graduation is being staged at the Palace, with the chancellors of Oxford, Cambridge, London, Bristol, Nottingham, Warwick, De Montfort (Leicester) and Glasgow Caledonian queuing up to bestow their honours.

That evening Mr Mandela attends a banquet at Guildhall and receives the honorary freedom of the City of London. He is in the City again next morning, for a working

trip to the Bank of England.

On Friday, the people get their chance to see one of the world's

IDAF



The outlawed ANC leader outside the Houses of Parliament in June 1962

Daughter joins the President's men on tour

FROM INIGO GILMORE
IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA's personal entourage for his visit is the largest to accompany him on an overseas trip. It includes Cabinet ministers, media officials, protocol officials, four aircar, five bodyguards, not to mention a daughter. Also with him is a delegation of businessmen.

Princess Zenani Mandela Dlamini, 38, his eldest daughter by his ex-wife Winnie, will stay with him at Buckingham Palace and be at his side at official functions.

The wife of a Swazi prince, she accompanied him at his inauguration in May 1994 but recently Rochelle Mitara, a young cousin, has been a regular escort. According to the President's office, they accompany him in rotation.

Also in close attendance will be Lakes Gervel, the Director-General of the President's Office, a former rector of the University of the Western Cape. The presidential spokesman with the party, Parks Mankahlana, is refreshingly candid. "Look, the president makes my job easy," he said last year. "He's a highly marketable product."

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NEWS IN BRIEF
RAF court martial
is halted

Antiques dealer's son killed stranger over drugs debt

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE son of a wealthy antiques dealer was jailed for life at the Old Bailey yesterday for stabbing a stranger to death in a case of mistaken identity.

Marc Mazure, 20, of Muswell Hill, north London, an old boy of Highgate School, was sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering Raymond Morgan, 26, last August on a north London street. He was mistaken for a drug dealer who had threatened Mazure.

As Mazure was led out of court he pointed two fingers at the public gallery and pretended to fire at the dead man's family and girlfriend. Frank Asante, 21, of Kilburn, west London, who was also in the gang, was sentenced to life.

Mazure's older brother, Robert, has admitted perverting the course of justice and assault linked to the attack. He is awaiting sentence.

The Mazures' father owns a West End antiques shop. Their parents are separated and Marc Mazure lived with his mother. He had been expelled from school at 15 for dealing in cannabis and had convictions for drug offences.

During the 17-day trial the court was told that he and a gang went out last August in Muswell Hill looking for a drug dealer called Curtis

Hunt. Mazure said that he had difficulty repaying Hunt £100 he owed for cannabis. As a result Robert had been beaten up. Hunt was then threatening to punch Marc because he had been seen talking to his girlfriend.

Mazure, who had smoked three cannabis joints, went with his accomplices to The Woodman public house which Hunt used in Highgate. Mr Morgan and his girlfriend, Claire Sinclair, 19, were walking home. Mr Morgan was thought to be the drug dealer; both men were black, wore smart clothes and glasses and both had white girlfriends.

Nigel Sweeney, for the prosecution, told the court: "Without warning they attacked Mr



Marc Mazure: went out looking for drug dealer

Morgan. It was a short but fierce attack. He was taken across the road, subdued and held face down." Mazure rammed a sheath knife three times into his back. One wound penetrated 4in, passing through the left lung and damaging main arteries. Mr Morgan, unemployed, of Wood Green, north London, died almost immediately.

Mr Sweeney said that, if Mazure had killed Hunt, "that would have been bad enough, but a particularly appalling feature of this case is that a wholly innocent man ended up being murdered".

When the Mazures were traced, the family lawyer said that Marc would confess to murder if his brother was not charged with the killing. Police said that they never agreed to a deal and both brothers were charged with murder.

The Crown later offered no evidence against Robert just before the start of the first of two trials, after he admitted lesser charges. The confession was used in the first trial but not allowed in the second.

Three months before the murder Marc Mazure was questioned by police after he ran down and killed an elderly couple. He claimed he could not avoid them and no charges were brought.

The Crown later offered no evidence against Robert just before the start of the first of two trials, after he admitted lesser charges. The confession was used in the first trial but not allowed in the second.

Ms Brewster, 29, was welcomed by a flotilla of small craft as she waited for the tide to turn to enter Southampton, from where she began her trip last October. She crossed the finish line off the Cornish

coast last Thursday, becoming the first woman, and youngest person, to complete the trip against prevailing winds and currents.

Equipment failure forced her into Santos, Brazil, in early December. She set sail again on January 3 only to be



Yachtswoman enjoys calm after the storms

hit by a generator fuel shortage off West Africa on the home run.

A faulty battery was using more power than expected to run on-board communications and the auto-pilot and she was forced to conserve generator fuel by spending 14

hours a day at the helm. Eventually she decided it was impossible to complete a non-stop voyage by finishing in Santos, so she set course for Britain, facing another serious incident when one of her batteries was burnt out by an electrical fire.

It is the second time she has completed the "wrong way" route, but last time she was with 13 other crew members during the British Steel Challenge.

Parents fly to sick daughter's bedside

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE parents of a student who contracted a life-threatening infection while travelling alone around the world have flown to her hospital bedside.

Rachael Swindale, 19, was backpacking in a remote part of Thailand when she contracted a bacterial infection through a cut in her foot, which caused lung abscesses. She was taken to hospital 300 miles from Bangkok, where none of the medical staff spoke English, and admitted to in-

tensive care. All communication had to be conducted through an interpreter at the British Consulate in Bangkok.

Her parents have told family in Gosforth, Tyne and Wear, that she is off the danger list and no longer using a respirator. Miss Swindale's condition had been so serious that doctors advised against flying her to a better-equipped hospital in case her lungs collapsed.

Miss Swindale is likely to return home within a fortnight.

Tony Blair widens his street credibility

By DOMINIC KENNEDY
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has joined that select group whose names have become slang words. "Tony Blairs" has been included in *The Bloomsbury Dictionary of Contemporary Slang* as the in-phrase for flared trousers.

The Labour leader has benefited from the revival of flares by a generation too young to be familiar with the entertainer who gave them the label "Lionel Blairs" in the 1970s. Before that, they were known as "Grosvenor Squares".

Mr Blair now joins Douglas Hurd (a third-class university degree) and Edward Heath (teeth; as in "a kick in the Edwards") in being immortalised

in rhyming slang. "Blair" has also become a verb. "To Blair" someone means to run them down, mock or humiliate them. Tony Thorne, author of the dictionary, said: "I'm quite stumped about the origin of that one."

John Major, like James Callaghan and Harold Wilson before him, has made no impact on street language. "It's a bit of a sad reflection that people didn't even think they were worth it," said Mr Thorne, head of the slang archive at King's College London.

Margaret Thatcher gets two entries in the dictionary's new edition, to be published next year. The £1 coin was known as a "Thatcher" because it was thick, universally unpopular and thought it was a sovereign. She also made "handbagging" the verb for

stauchly fighting one's corner. "You can't imagine anybody saying they were 'Majored,'" Mr Thorne said.

Lady Thatcher affected the language because she inspired hatred, Mr Heath because he provoked derision, and Mr Blair because he has charisma, he said.

"It's appropriate that he has become the name for a kind of trousers. There are certain staples of slang. The obvious things are sex and drink. But there are many synonyms for trousers."

"Pants" is currently an adjective meaning unlucky, or bad news. "Strides", "kecks" and "bags" are vogue words for trousers.

British homegrown slang is enjoying a huge revival, largely with words coming from black gangs and moving into the nation's youth culture. "It has

spread through the underground telegraph system so that kids in parts of the country who have never seen an Afro-Caribbean are using quite sophisticated or controversial parts of their language," Mr Thorne said.

The black British words include "mamby", "mashed up" and "butters", all meaning ugly or unpleasant; "seen", an acknowledgement; "duss", "dust", "shif" and "shackout", meaning run for it.

Slang words fade but never die. "Paraffin lamp" and "penny stamp" are the vogue words for the homeless. Both were everyday objects the last time the streets of Britain had so many tramps. A "Gregory" still means cheque, although few adolescents remember the film star Mr Peck.

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Trial jury urges clemency for jail escapers

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A JURY that convicted two inmates of escaping from Parkhurst top-security prison urged the trial judge yesterday to show clemency when passing sentence on them.

The jurors made their appeal after hearing the two men, both convicted murderers, claim that they were so depressed they would have committed suicide had they not fled.

Keith Rose, 47, and Andrew Rodger, 45, escaped from Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight in 1995 with Matthew Williams, 27. They broke out using a copied pass key, wire cutters and a makeshift ladder, and spent five days on the run with the help of £300 from one of the jail's drug barons.

The escape, the second from a top-security jail in four months, led to the removal of the governor, John Marriott, and the sacking of Derek Lewis as director-general of the Prison Service.

Rose told Woolwich Crown Court that he had been cast into the "blackest despair" after the Home Secretary scrapped the 20-year tariff he was to have served for the murder of a businessman's wife and ruled that he should spend the rest of his life in jail. Rodger said that he felt the same when his tariff for killing a nightwatchman was increased from 12 to 17 years.

The jurors asked the judge to show both men "extreme clemency". They also recommended that Rose be allowed a retrial on the murder conviction, which he has spent years trying to overturn.

Rose and Rodger, who denied "breaking prison", showed no reaction as they were convicted but nodded and smiled at the jury as they heard the recommendations.

Judge Hubert Dunn will sentence the two today. He said that he would take the jury's recommendation into account but had no power relating to Rose's murder conviction.

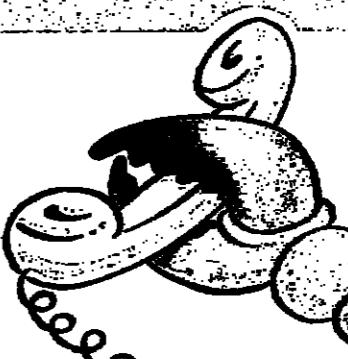
Williams, who pleaded guilty, will be dealt with after the preparation of a psychiatric report.

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Zagreb and Belgrade to swap war data

FROM REUTER
IN BELGRADE

CROATIA and Yugoslavia have agreed to exchange information on people detained and killed during their 1991 war. Information on people still missing will also be exchanged in a step towards normalising relations, a Yugoslav official said yesterday.

"We have taken a significant step forward. We are speeding up the solution to these burning issues," Pavle Todoric, head of the Yugoslav Commission for Humanitarian Issues and Missing Persons, said. "The implementation of the agreements should provide answers to the destinies of thousands of missing, killed or imprisoned people," he added.

Under the agreement, Croatia will release all prisoners of war possibly by August 20. At the same time Croatia has accepted that Yugoslavia holds no prisoners of war.

FROM ANTHONY LOYD
IN TUZLA

NEARLY a year after their disappearance, the remains of the missing men of Srebrenica are surfacing under the shovels of a United Nations team in eastern Bosnia as it begins work to exhume the latest war grave site and collate evidence on Europe's worst war atrocity since the Holocaust.

The 20-strong UN team, including forensic scientists and anthropologists, arrived at a roadside outside Cerska, a Serb-held area about 19 miles west of Srebrenica on Sunday. In May, they had visited the site and carried out a preliminary dig, uncovering human remains and bullet casings.

"We will concentrate on previously visited sites using heavy equipment," John Gerns, an American pathologist with the team, said. "During the excavation process we will expose the entire grave."

The Cerska site is located on an embankment bisected by a road. It is alleged that last July, Muslim men were made to stand at the roadside and were machine-gunned by Serbs, who used bulldozers to move earth from raised ground to cover the bodies.

So far, the UN team's work has involved marking off the



site, an area about 20 yards wide by 40 yards across. The team is using a mechanical digger for the first time and has also recruited a local labour force of a dozen Serbs, who were unhappy with the media attention.

Srebrenica, a UN "safe haven", fell to advancing Serb forces last July 11. The women and children were separated from their menfolk and allowed to walk across nearby front lines to areas controlled by Bosnian Government forces. The men disappeared.

A week later up to 3,000 Muslim soldiers fought their way out of Srebrenica, and brought with them tales of mass executions of prisoners.

Their accounts were later corroborated by a handful of civilians who survived the handiwork of the Serb execution squads by hiding under

the fallen bodies. As many as 8,000 men are still missing, killed either as they tried to flee from the fallen town or later as prisoners. The survivors' testimonies implicated General Ratko Mladic, the commander of the Bosnian Serb Army, who was present at the scene of the mass killings.

The UN team, whose work is being screened from Serbs by a security net of United States troops in armoured combat vehicles, plans to unearth 20 other sites over the next three months, both in eastern Bosnia and in Croatia.

The sites related to Srebrenica include a field at Nova Kasaba, which US officials believe may contain up to 2,700 bodies, a reservoir spillway near Zvornik and a meadow at Plice, where a Serb soldier, in custody at the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague, admitted taking part in the killing of hundreds of Muslim men there in a single day.

"For a year now we have waited in the hope that our men may still be alive," a woman refugee from Srebrenica said yesterday. "The digging now may answer the question of what really happened last year, but for us it means the end of that hope."



War crimes investigators search for a mass grave on an embankment in Cerska village, near Srebrenica

Bosnia mass grave surrenders secrets

Arrest warrants 'soon' for Mladic and Karadzic

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE war crimes tribunal in The Hague is expected to issue international arrest warrants for Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb leaders, within days, bringing increased pressure on world powers to capture the two men.

The warrants, which tribunal judge Claude Jorda is expected to pronounce on Thursday, will cap more than two weeks of hearings in which Dr Karadzic and General Mladic, his military commander, have been accused of waging a campaign of genocide against non-Serbs.

The warrants will make it impossible for them to leave Bosnian Serb territory without risking immediate arrest and extradition to The Hague. "Even Belgrade will be off-limits," a spokesman for Human Rights Watch said.

The two men were indicted for genocide last July after the fall of Srebrenica. "Today, both Karadzic and Mladic remain fugitives from international justice," Mark Harmon, the prosecutor, told the court after citing evidence that they "instigated, planned and ordered the genocide and the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia". If the world failed to bring the two to justice "it will shame us all", he said.

At the weekend Admiral Leighton Smith, the US commander of Nato forces in Bosnia, said that if politicians ordered the arrest of the two men his troops would act. But he added that at present he would neither detain nor intimidate Dr Karadzic.

Over the past two weeks the court has heard a parade of witnesses testifying to the horrors of the Serb ethnic cleansing campaign. On Friday, a man identified only as Witness A, described how he had escaped from one mass slaughter, which he said was witnessed by General Mladic, by hiding under a pile of bodies. The man said General Mladic watched "Serb soldiers bringing us there, lining us up and killing us".

Mr Harmon said that General Mladic had personally assured thousands of Muslim refugees that they would not be harmed. "There can be no doubt that both Karadzic and Mladic could have stopped this killing whenever they wanted."

Lawyers acting for Dr Karadzic have said that he is keen to demonstrate his innocence but will not agree to stand trial until he is assured of a "level playing field".



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JULY 9 1996

South West Water chief gets £800,000 severance deal

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BILL FRASER, the South West Water managing director who left the company earlier this year after a series of environmental accidents, took away a cash and share options package worth more than £800,000.

Mr Fraser resigned from South West in February — just before the publication of a report into water contamination that left 600 people ill in Devon. In August it had paid out £1.5 million in compensation to

100,000 households in the area that had to boil their water after a stomach bug was traced to its water treatment plants. Next month the company faces court action brought by the Department of the Environment resulting from the incident.

Michael Meacher, Shadow Employment Secretary, said he would demand an investigation by the regulator. He said the severance package destroyed the arguments of the company against a windfall tax, which Labour intends to levy on the

privatised utilities. He said: "There appears to be at least one employee in Britain who doesn't suffer from job insecurity."

The company, which also allowed a billion gallons of water to flow into the sea last summer at the height of the drought, has retained Mr Fraser as a consultant for £50,000 a year. South West, which faces two hostile takeover bids, levies the highest water charges, averaging £302 a year, about £100 above the average. It has more than doubled since

South West was privatised in 1989. Then the charge was £146.

Last year Mr Fraser's pay sparked a round of "fat cat" controversies in the water companies when it was revealed that it had jumped £67,000 to £164,000.

The company was last year challenged by Ian Byatt, the water regulator, on its "ability to manage its functions in an effective and prudent manner". It has failed to meet aluminium standards at its Tamar water treatment plant and

has been under a barrage of criticism over cleanliness standards of its beaches.

South West struck basic severance terms of £26,000 with Mr Fraser. Extra pension contributions of £10,000 were given along with non-cash benefits worth £10,000. He received his full salary of £109,000, a performance-related bonus of £9,000, other payments of £16,000 and a supplementary pension payment of £28,000. He is also entitled to exercise share options over

106,000 shares to February next year and more than 10,000 shares to July 1998. His total benefits, gauged at yesterday's share price, would top £839,000.

South West Water, which is facing hostile bids from Wessex Water and Severn Trent, yesterday revealed, with its annual report, that it will seek shareholder permission to mount a £20 million share buyback. But the buyback will largely hinge on South West remaining independent.

TONY WHITE

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

	FTSE 100	FTSE All share	Nikkei 225	Dax 30	S&P Composite
Yield	4.06%	4.06%	3.97%	3.97%	3.97%
21/24/96	1864.78	2123.94	307.48	307.48	307.48
New York					
Dax 30	5597.77	5371.00	5371.00	5371.00	5371.00
S&P Composite	656.26	656.26	656.26	656.26	656.26

US RATE

	Federal Funds	Long Bond
Yield	5.14%	85.5%
21/24/96	7.20%	7.19%

LONDON MONEY

	3-month Interbank	1-year long gilt future (Sep)
21/24/96	108%	108%

STERLING

	New York	S. London	S. DM	FFR	SFR	Yen	E. Index
21/24/96	1.5530*	1.5573	1.5543	1.5551	2.3761	5.1760*	1.5274

DOLLAR

	London	DM	FFR	SFR	Yen	Index
21/24/96	1.5281*	1.5274	5.1760*	1.2600	110.98*	110.78

YEN

	Tokyo close
21/24/96	Yen 110.85

GOLD

	London close
21/24/96	\$382.15 (\$381.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Easing of inflation lifts rate cut hopes

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A DRAMATIC fall in inflation pressures in industry and continuing stagnation in the manufacturing sector could tempt Kenneth Clarke into another base rate cut later this month, according to City analysts.

The latest set of producer prices from the Office for National Statistics yesterday were hailed as excellent. The price of raw materials — known as input prices — plunged by a seasonally adjusted 1.3 per cent in June, the largest monthly fall since September 1993. This gave a year-on-year fall of 2.1 per cent, the first annual decline in input prices since early 1994.

Factory gate, or producer output, prices fell by an unadjusted 0.2 per cent, depressing the year-on-year rate to 2.6 per cent in May, the largest monthly fall since December 1991 and the lowest yearly rise since November 1994.

Rising producer prices were the main reason for the deterioration in retail price inflation last year and falling goods prices, Adam Cole, of HSBC James Capel, said. "With producer prices generally leading retail prices by six to nine months, the scene is set for pleasant inflation surprises in coming months," he said.

The team at HSBC is predicting another 1.4 point cut in base rate in the autumn, although some City economists yesterday argued that the Chancellor could use the producer price figures, combined with a weak showing from manufacturing, as justification for a cut after the July 30 monetary meeting.

The ONS reported that manufacturing industry showed no growth in May, against City expectations of a small rise. In the latest three months, manufacturing was up 0.3 per cent on the previous three, and up 0.4 per cent on the same period a year ago. Industrial production, which includes energy production, rose 0.8 per cent in May, largely because of unseasonably cold weather.

The ONS estimated that, for the fourth month running, both total production and manufacturing were showing no underlying growth. The trend of manufacturing on its own has been flat for six months. Manufacturers are

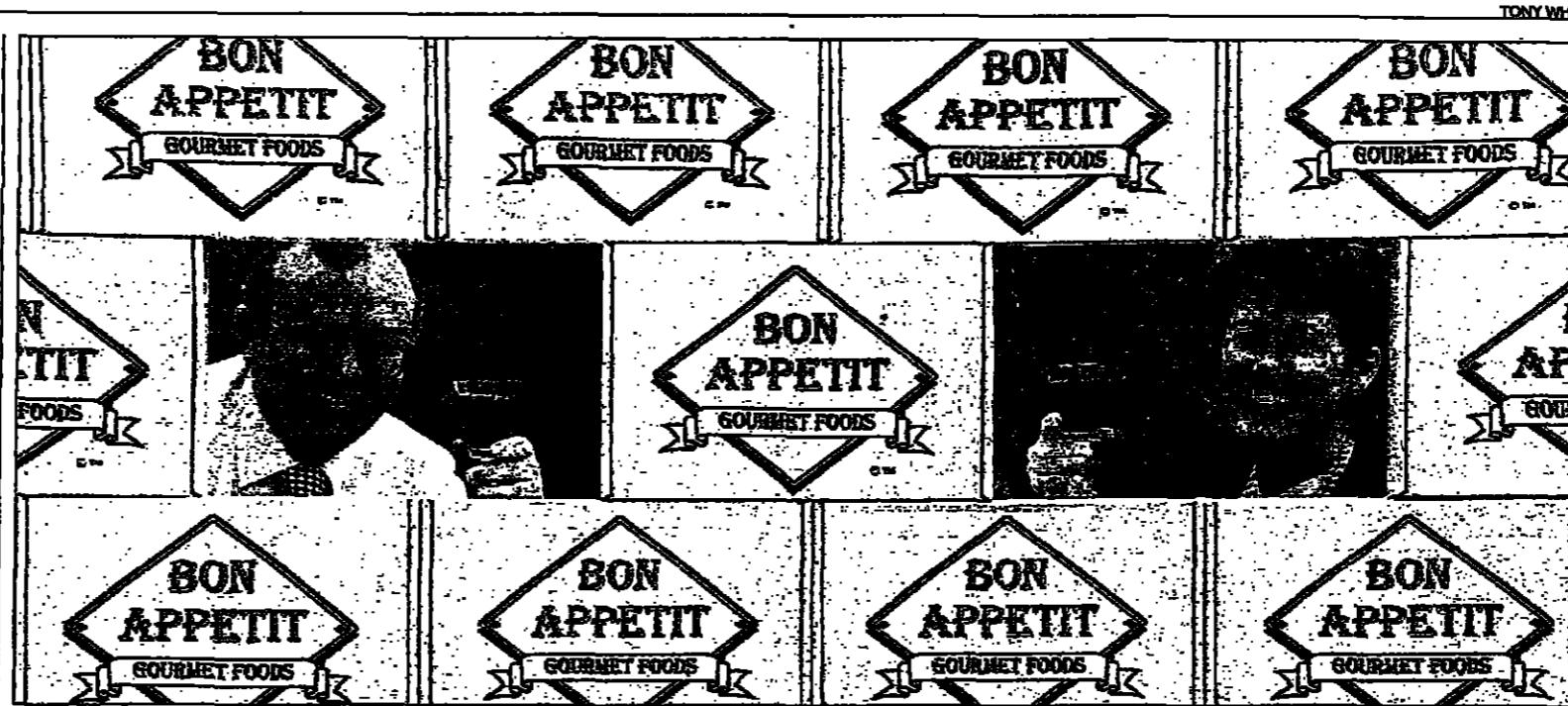
still holding back production in the face of weak demand from key export markets in Europe and huge stockpiles built up last year when firms were caught out by slowing demand at home and then in Europe.

There is little sign that these twin pressures are easing. David Walton, of Goldman Sachs, expects manufacturing output to decline in both the second and third quarters until firms complete their stock adjustment, and this should keep the economy growing below trend until later in the year.

Simon Briscoe, of Nikko Europe, said: "The economy is suffering from more than a temporary spell of destocking blues. If the recovery fails to take hold, rates will be cut again as inflation falls."

Alex Garrard, of UBS Ltd, said that yesterday's figures would add to the temptation for Mr Clarke to chance a further rate cut later this month. But he added that the recent strength of consumer data meant support to the view of Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, that manufacturing weakness was masking latent strength elsewhere. "With this in mind, Mr George may adopt a more robust stance against further monetary easing," he said.

The Treasury's Summer Forecast, published today, is expected to revise down the Budget prediction of 3 per cent growth to between 2.5 per cent and 2.75 per cent.



Starters: Keith and Jacqueline Pordum celebrate the start of dealings in Pordum Foods, which provides door-to-door deliveries of gourmet food dishes. The shares were placed at 3p on the Alternative Investment Market and ended the day at 3.5p, after having touched 3.3p at one stage

Hanson writedowns will not affect demerger

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

HANSON, the Anglo-American conglomerate that is breaking itself into four, faces tougher industrial liabilities for its US coal business that will cut £70 million a year from profits.

Peabody Group, which will form part of Hanson's energy division to be spun off next January, has been hit by an extended timescale to fund provisions for illness and increased environmental costs. Payments to be made to the US Federal Coal Industry Black Lung and Abandoned Miners Fund total £1.2 billion.

Peabody and another US Hanson business — Cornerstone Construction and Materials — took writedowns totalling £2.9 billion after the group implemented a new US accounting standard. The book value of mineral reserves for Cornerstone Construction and Materials was cut by £2.3 billion to £1.3 billion, while the value of coal

reserves at Peabody was reduced by £600 million to £1.5 billion.

But the company said that no writedowns would have been made under the old standard and that the writedowns would not affect the demerger which it said would proceed on time.

Millennium Chemicals and

Hanson: BREAKING UP IS HARD TO DO

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

Imperial Tobacco, the first two businesses to be separated, are on target for independence on October 1, although Hanson said yesterday that the deadline to issue shareholder information had slipped by a couple of weeks to the middle of August.

Hanson, whose shares weakened 0.5p to touch a six-year low, said the main costs of the demerger would be about £20 million. It has £4.5 billion in bank syndication.

Hanson's energy interests are to go under the name of the Energy Group and will include Eastern, the regional electricity company and generator. Hanson said yesterday that Eastern would average £50 million a year in post-tax earnings over seven years from power stations that it has bought from National Power and PowerGen.

The cuts are part of BT's commitment to cut overall prices by the inflation rate, less 7% per cent, each year. The formula has saved customers £1.3 billion over the past three years, making the UK one of the world's least expensive telecoms markets. BT can reduce prices wherever it

Negative equity release

By SARA McCONNELL

HUNDREDS of thousands of people trapped in negative equity could be freed as soon as 1998, as house prices rise by an average annual rate of 6 per cent over the next four years, predicts Legal & General Investment Management. But such rises will not be sufficient to rescue those who bought in 1990 after the market started to slump in October 1989.

David Shaw, strategy manager at L&G and author of the group's first house price forecast since 1993, estimates that absolute price rises, including inflation, will peak next year at 7.5 per cent and continue rising modestly for the following seven years. Mr Shaw said: "This means that the vast majority of households who are currently in negative equity could well be freed of this financial shackle by early 1998." An estimated one million people have homes worth less than the value of their mortgage.

BT to cut prices of international calls

By ERIC REGULY

BT is to slash its international call charges by as much as 23 per cent, saving customers more than £34 million a year.

The reductions will come into effect in September and will be available only on Saturdays and Sundays, when residential customers tend to make overseas calls.

BT's busiest routes will see the largest reductions. Prices of calls to the US and Canada, for example, will fall by 23 per cent, while those for calls to the Indian sub-continent will fall 21 per cent. Australia and New Zealand call prices will drop 15 per cent. The least busy destinations, such as Africa, will qualify for reductions of only 5 to 9 per cent.

The cuts are part of BT's commitment to cut overall prices by the inflation rate, less 7% per cent, each year. The formula has saved customers £1.3 billion over the past three years, making the UK one of the world's least expensive telecoms markets. BT can reduce prices wherever it

wants and has gone the farthest on international calls because of the intense competition in that area.

Dozens of operators, ranging from AT&T, America's largest long-distance carrier, to tiny discounters have been given licences to compete with BT. Their growth strategy is based almost entirely on offering cheaper prices.

Discounters such as Swiftcall and ACC Long Distance have been promising charges that can be 50 per cent less than BT's charges. Such companies lease overseas voice circuits from large operators at flat rates and try to fill them to capacity. It is estimated that these discounters have captured 15 per cent or more of the phone traffic between Britain and America.

Analysts say that BT will have to keep dropping its international rates in an effort to keep the discounters at bay.

Pennington, page 27

City stays cool on Guinness

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE market reacted calmly yesterday as Guinness confirmed to the Stock Exchange that it had no intention of launching a £13 billion bid for Grand Metropolitan, in spite of the weekend speculation.

Double cream for directors of dairy float

By PAUL DURMAN

FIVE directors of Dairy Crest will be paid flotation bonuses totalling £345,000 as a reward for bringing the milk and cheese company to the stock market. The payments are in addition to the substantial share options that the directors will receive when Dairy Crest floats next month. The company will be worth about £200 million and is likely to have about 20,000 dairy farmers as shareholders.

For four of the directors, including John Houliston, the £232,000-a-year

chief executive, the decision to make payments "to secure their continuing services" was only made last December. Mr Houliston, Ian Laurie, the finance director, and Drummond Hall, who runs the cheese and spreads business, are due to receive £75,000. Bill Brown, managing director of the liquid milk business, will receive £70,000.

Dairy Crest's executive directors are all on two-year contracts. The Greenbury Committee on executive pay recommended one-year contracts. Mr Laurie said that the Residuary Milk Marketing Board,

which owns Dairy Crest on behalf of dairy farmers, had decided the payments were necessary because of the uncertain state of the milk market. "It was very necessary to hold together what they felt was a very remarkable management team," Mr Laurie said.

Two directors left last year, including Mr Laurie's predecessor. Payments will also be made to about another 15 senior managers below board level. Michael Dowdall, chairman, will be paid a flotation bonus of £50,000 — as agreed when he joined Dairy Crest shortly before

milk market deregulation in November 1994.

Mr Laurie said that most large public companies have still to implement the Greenbury recommendation on contracts. The RMMB felt two-year contracts were appropriate and in keeping with food industry practice.

Dairy Crest's pathfinder prospectus, published yesterday, reveals that 30 per cent of the company's shares will be placed with institutional investors. Dairy farmers will be repaid a £66.6 million debt dating from the Milk Marketing Board

days. Farmers will also receive shares in the company.

About two thirds of the 29,000 farmers involved have indicated they would like to take their entitlement in shares. Farmers are expected to end up owning close to 70 per cent of Dairy Crest. Many of the company's 3,400 employees will qualify for £100 of free shares.

Dairy Crest recently reported operating profits from its continuing business of £34.1 million, on sales of £740 million. It is keen to develop sales of its higher margin and branded products.

TONY WHITE

Bonar finds grounds for optimism

By PAUL DURMAN

LOW & BONAR, the packaging and plastics company, sounded a note of cautious optimism as it reported continued progress in the face of difficult markets.

Many packaging companies have been struggling with sluggish demand and destocking problems caused by falling raw material prices. Passing on the lower raw material costs caused Low & Bonar's first-half sales to fall by 4 per cent to £211 million. Yet pre-tax profits increased 7 per cent to £27.4 million, with profit margins increasing from 11.7 to 13 per cent.

Earnings rose 10 per cent, to 18.4p a share, boosted by the buyout of the minority interest in Canadian subsidiary Bonar Inc. The interim dividend is increased 11 per cent to 4p a share.

Jim Heilig, chief executive, said the company was benefiting from its heavy expenditure on new and more efficient plant.

Appleyard dealership overstated profits

APPLEYARD, the car dealer, has called in the police after discovering that profits from a Manchester dealership were overstated by £1.4 million. The former operations director and accountant have left the Ian Skelly dealership. No arrests have been made. More than £1 million of the overstatement relates to 1995. Appleyard will also have to cut £200,000 from the profits it reports for the first half of 1996. Appleyard's auditors, Ernst & Young, failed to pick up any irregularities when it examined the books of the Manchester business in 1994 and 1995. The problems came to light in May after a management reshuffle.

Correcting the overstatement will cut about £1 million from Appleyard's shareholders' funds. The company has still to decide whether it has a case to bring against Ernst & Young. Appleyard said it intends to maintain its interim dividend at 3.1p a share. It expects interim profits will be at least £4.6 million, down from an adjusted £4.9 million, for the first half of 1995. Order intake for new cars in August is up 27 per cent.

Exchanges set link date

THE Chicago Board of Trade, the world's busiest futures exchange, and the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange have set May 9, 1997 as the new launch date for the open outcry linkage of the two exchanges and their respective clearing houses. The agreement moves the exchanges closer to 24-hour global trading. The original launch date of June 28 this year was postponed because of technical system work needed on the clearing operations link between the exchanges.

ERS aims for dual quote

ERS INTERNATIONAL, producer of electronic supermarket shelf labels, will become the first company to trade on both New York's Nasdaq and Britain's Alternative Investment Market on its £30.5 million flotation on Thursday. The company joined Nasdaq in 1993 and has already spent \$57 million on development. It plans to raise £7.7 million from the placing. Its electronic price labels can be updated daily by remote control from a central computer, and sell for an average of \$100.00 a set. Shares will begin trading at 145p.

Oil production rises

WORLD oil production rose sharply in June as new fields came on stream in Africa and Asia, and North Sea output recovered after a strike by Norwegian oil workers in May. The International Energy Agency said yesterday. The Paris agency said world production rose 680,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 72.1 million bpd. Supply from the 11 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries rose a modest 40,000 bpd to 25.7 million bpd. Total non-Opec supply is forecast to rise 1.6 million bpd on the year to 44.1 million bpd in 1996.

Shield lifts R&D costs

SHIELD DIAGNOSTICS, the in-vitro diagnostics company, reported flat pre-tax profits of £276,000 in the year to March 31, on turnover that rose 22 per cent to £5.83 million. The level profits reflected research and development (R&D) costs of £46,000, up 43 per cent. Shield signalled that it plans to grow through product development and increasing its direct sales force rather than by making acquisitions. It said that its balance sheet, with £1.3 million of cash at the end of the year, remained strong.

Media activities merge

CLT, the Luxembourg media group, which owns the Atlantic 252 and Talk Radio stations in Britain, and Bertelsmann, the German media group, are to merge their European radio, television and production businesses. The new company will include RTL Television, Germany's biggest broadcaster, and a 29 per cent stake in Channel 5, the UK's new terrestrial television service. Canal Plus, the French pay-TV operator, had feared that Bertelsmann and CLT would launch a pay-TV service in its home market, but that fear seems to have eased.

RMC's Ennemix stake

RMC Group, the concrete company, has stepped into the takeover battle for Ennemix, the building materials company, by acquiring 200,000 Ennemix shares at 50p each. RMC said it has no "current intention" of making a full bid, but is ordering the purchase of more shares in the market. RMC's bid was at a 4p premium to the 46p-a-share agreed bid for Ennemix by Lafarge, of France. Lafarge has acquired a 27.7 per cent interest from Vaughan McLeod, Ennemix's chief executive. Redland holds a 41 per cent stake from a failed bid.



Jim Heilig, right, chief executive, with Norman McLeod, finance director, after yesterday's improved first-half results

Speculators warned off from Bank of Scotland share sale

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SPECULATORS and hedge fund managers were given warning yesterday that they will be excluded from Standard Life's sale of its stake of nearly a third of the Bank of Scotland.

BZW, the merchant bank chosen as joint global co-ordinator for the offer, said that investors who put in early bids would be favoured above those who put in large orders "in the last few hours" of the three-day bookbuilding exercise, due to start on July 22.

Standard Life's sale of about

29 per cent of its 32.2 per cent stake is one of the biggest share placings seen in the UK. The giant life insurer said that it decided to sell the stake because it represented 6 per cent of its UK equity holdings and was disproportionately large. Standard Life hopes to raise more than £840 million by selling up to 351 million shares, valuing each share at 23p, just above the market price of 23p when the offer was announced. The share price rose 3p, to 244p, yester-

day after presentations to the City.

The offer includes an option to hold back 46 million shares for 12 months if demand is insufficient.

Standard Life will keep a 2.5 per cent stake as a long-term investment. The insurer failed in its recent attempt to sell all or most of its stake to a hostile bidder or a strategic partner for the bank.

George Maddison, for BZW, said "an expensive piece of computer software" will help to weed out unwanted candi-

dates. "We are looking for quality investors who intend to hold shares over the longer term, preferably five years or more," he said. "Those who help us will be rewarded."

Large investors such as the Prudential and Mercury Asset Management, which held shares for the long term, would be favoured, he said.

Sir Bruce Patullo, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, admitted that, after Standard Life's announcement of its plan to dispose of the shares,

"there was a period when clearly we had some worries". Four days after the announcement in May he resigned from Standard Life's board.

Yesterday, Sir Bruce said that Bank of Scotland management wanted it to stay independent. "Thirty holdings of 1 per cent each would be just about Utopia," he said. "If there is a predator, they know they are going to have a fight on their hands."

Pennington, page 27

Italian acquisitions fuel Kenwood rise

By FRASER NELSON

KENWOOD, the kitchen appliances group, achieved record pre-tax profits of £15.6 million the year to April 4, as its Italian acquisitions more than offset a flat performance in the UK.

Ariete and Mizushi, the Italian groups bought in November 1995, gave their first full-year contribution, helping to boost sales in continental Europe by 69 per cent to £110 million — more than half of the group total.

The total dividend is held at 10p. Earnings per share rose 1.4p, to 23.5p.

Tim Beech, managing director, said that, in spite of gearing of 63 per cent, the

group could still make bolt-on acquisitions. If a major opportunity arose, he would consider a rights issue, he said.

Candy set to invest £7.8m in Hoover

CANDY, the Italian white goods manufacturer, is to invest £7.8 million in Hoover, the household appliance business it acquired for a knock-down price last year after a free flights promotion cost the UK group £48 million (Sarah Bagnall writes).

Candy revealed it intends to relaunch a Hoover refrigerator range after a ten-year absence from the market. The range, which will be launched this autumn, is expected to add 20 per cent to sales in the first year.

Three vacuum cleaner ranges will be launched over the next year. Hoover's Merthyr Tydfil plant will be Candy's group centre for tumble dryer manufacture.

PIA adjudications barred by 17 firms

By SARA MCCONNELL

SOME life and investment companies are refusing to allow independent ombudsmen to investigate complaints that fall outside narrowly defined terms of reference. Policyholders with such complaints are left with no option but to go to court, and face the prospect of heavy legal bills if they lose.

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), which regulates sales of investments to the public, yesterday published a list of 17 companies which have made it clear they will not allow the PIA ombudsman or his counterpart, the insurance ombudsman, to handle complaints about the

administration of investments: the marketing, selling or administration of long-term care, term assurance or permanent health insurance; or complaints dating back to before the Financial Services Act came into effect in April 1988.

All these areas are outside the jurisdiction of the Personal Investment Authority ombudsman and can be dealt with by him or the insurance ombudsman only with the agreement of the company concerned.

The list compiled by the PIA includes Aegon Life, American Life, Century Life, Crown Life, and Premium Life.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sales	Bank Buys	Bank Sales
Australia \$.....	2.04	1.98	Netherlands Gld.....	2.00
Austria Sch.....	16.90	15.40	New Zealand \$.....	2.29
Belgium Fr.....	49.44	45.14	Norway Kr.....	10.28
Canada \$.....	2.00	2.00	Portugal Esc.....	244.00
Cyprus Cyp.....	0.748	0.852	Spain Peseta.....	225.50
Denmark Kr.....	9.34	8.54	Sweden Kr.....	198.50
Finland Mkk.....	7.64	6.58	Switzerland Fr.....	183.50
France Fr.....	8.21	7.48	UK £.....	5.95
Greece Dr.....	388.45	383.00	USA \$.....	1.00
Hong Kong \$.....	12.45	11.45	USA \$.....	1.494
Iceland Kr.....	0.42	0.44	Notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading Thursday.	
Italy Lira.....	5.1700	4.8200		
Japan Yen.....	2494.00	2339.00		
Malta.....	177.50	161.50		
	0.536	0.536		

Greenhills cash call for Russian vodka

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

GREENHILLS, the themed restaurant group, is launching another rights issue later this year to raise up to £12 million to help to fund development of a newly acquired Russian vodka. In an all-paper offer, Greenhills is paying up to £1.35 million for the acquisition of Russian Dawn, which has exclusive UK distribution rights for Kremlyovskaya, the

third biggest vodka in Russia. Kremlyovskaya sells more than eight million cases a year. Greenhills will offer nine million shares to Russian Dawn if performance criteria are met over the next few years.

Money from the rights issue will also help to develop its Dream Factory theme restaurant complex which is scheduled to open this year.

BSkyB and Kirch link up to launch digital satellite TV

By ERIC REGULY

BSKYB, the satellite broadcaster, formed a partnership yesterday with the Kirch Gruppe of Germany to launch what will become one of Europe's first satellite broadcasting systems in digital form.

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, said the partnership will begin broadcasting 17 channels in Germany on July 28. They will include MTV, several children's channels, a German version of the Discovery Channel, and three sport and nine movie channels.

The partnership, known as DF1, will be 49 per cent

owned by BSkyB and 51 per cent owned by Kirch. BSkyB has also withdrawn from an agreement to acquire a 25 per cent stake in Premiere, the TV channel controlled by Bertelsmann and Canal Plus. With DF1 ready to go,

Bertelsmann will be under pressure to create a digital-TV service of its own quickly. Other media companies will feel pressure to speed up their launch efforts too. DirecTV, for example, is expected to announce a digital TV partnership in Europe before the end of the summer. The company, which is owned by Hughes Electronics, a subsidiary of General Motors, could be a formidable player because of its deep pockets.

DF1 will rely on BSkyB to provide marketing, packaging and subscriber management systems. Kirch will provide the decoders and, at least initially, the bulk of the programming. Subscribers will need a "D-Box" decoder and a satellite-dish receiver, which together will cost about DM1,000. The monthly subscription charge for the basic service will be DM20.

Friendly HOTELS PLC

1 9 9 5 RESULTS

HOTELS & CATERING (CONTINUING OPERATIONS)	£'000

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The quality of mercy is Standard's When death-in-service benefits dwindle Market forces call a halt to BT and AT&T

BZW says that it has a secret weapon in its hunt for quality buyers of Bank of Scotland stock. An expensive piece of computer software will identify time-wasters and speculators who just want to make a quick buck.

Stags and hedge-fund managers beware: BZW plans to sell the bank's shares, currently held by Standard Life, to those who want to hold them for at least five years.

Previous experience in book-building has shown that demand for shares often doubles in the two hours before the deadline as word gets around that demand has exceeded supply and that the offer has become "hot".

This time, it says, those who make orders in the last two hours "will probably get nothing".

Claims like these make one ponder on what exactly this piece of high-tech equipment might be. Maybe it is a lie-detector, to measure a fund manager's heart rate when he or she is asked how soon they intend to sell after receiving the stock.

BZW might also like to share its technical know-how with the Treasury, which would find such information of immense use with the remaining government sell-offs. Imagine being

able to test every applicant for the forthcoming privatisation of British Energy on their commitment to the future of the nuclear industry. By happy coincidence BZW is also handling the British Energy sell-off. And what a boon it would have been to weed out in advance all those speculators who notched up hundreds of thousands of pounds of easy profit in the first hours of the Railtrack sale.

Such an ability to divine the secret plans of the City's finest would also be of immense use to the Stock Exchange, which could employ it during investigations into suspected insider dealing.

In reality, Standard Life is likely to have to sell the stock to whoever will take it. Analysts question the bank's ability to keep down its costs in relation to income, and they worry about flat markets in Australia and New Zealand, where the bank has made acquisitions.

The best solution for Standard Life would have been to find a hostile bidder willing to pay a premium for the stock. The shares will probably now be sold at a discount to the current

market rate, with analysts looking for a price of around 220p. Bank of Scotland is at Standard Life's mercy.

Paternal talk of excluding speculators at this late stage does not alter the fact that Standard Life would probably have sold Bank of Scotland down the river had it been given the chance.

And weeks of uncertainty over the future of the stock did the bank's share price no good at all.

A question of trust

JUST as you were beginning to relax about the safety of your pension fund, a new worry has emerged courtesy of Bellwinch, the builder turned round by the late Ray Davies. The death-in-service benefit, which his widow was expecting to receive after his death last June has been withheld and Mrs Davies is being sued by the company to prevent her from claiming the £600,000 due under a Norwich Union policy. The amount is irrelevant. The disquiet this case should cause is the same if you are



earning £20,000 or £200,000 because the payouts are based on trust law, which, as previous pension plunderings have shown, cannot always be trusted.

Most employees would rather not think about dying before retirement. It makes them feel too mortal. They quickly sign the forms nominating their chosen beneficiaries and probably even work out how much their partner might receive and then forget about the insurance cover. They may not even tell their partner what he or she might be worth in the event of payout.

The worry must be that such discretion might also allow employers to change the rules of payout without consulting individuals too closely. Most pension plans pay a widow's and dependant's pension in addition to the lump sum death-in-service benefit. In the case of Bellwinch, the company's writ claims that it had always intended to be paid out from the policy and then use the money to pay out benefits to Mrs Davies while having at least £364,000 for itself. If Bellwinch wins, hard-up companies might

be tempted to follow suit and a little more trust would be lost in the relationship between employees and pension schemes.

Dialling discounts

IN THE old days, fixing charges for phone calls was dead easy — the greater the distance, the greater the charge. That is why relatives in America got the occasional call while those in Australia got letters. What customers did not realise was that the actual cost of carrying a voice signal 10 feet or 10,000 miles did not differ enormously.

The huge profit margins on international calls eventually got consumers agitated, and governments and regulators around the world responded by doing out licences to new operators. Prices, as a result, have been plummeting.

Britain has been no exception. BT freely acknowledges that international calls have become its most competitive market and that such calls will

continue to fall in price at a faster rate than local and national calls. International calls will fall by up to 23 per cent from September.

BT had no choice but to cut. AT&T has estimated that international call discounters, the bucket shops of telecoms industry, have captured 15 per cent or more of phone traffic between the US and Britain in the past few years. The discounters lease voice circuits from large operators and fill them to capacity, while keeping overhead costs to a bare minimum, and can offer tariffs that are 50 per cent less than the going rate.

After the cuts, BT and AT&T, will have to find new markets and new products to make up the income shortfall.

But do not feel sorry for them; they have had an easy ride for decades.

Railway sleepers

THE British railway manufacturing industry will today mourn its 1,000th day without an order for mainline passenger trains, the longest peace-time gap since the Victorian rail boom. The dearth has been blamed on the disruption caused by rail privatisation and is not set to end until the end of this month, when the newly privatised Chiltern Railways is expected to order 12 diesel trains.

Tomkins to pay Gates chief salary of \$250,000

By CARL MORTISHED

TOMKINS has agreed to pay the retiring chairman of Gates Corporation a salary of \$250,000, after the sale of his company to Tomkins.

Charles C. Gates, whose family controls the private fan-belt manufacturer to be acquired by Tomkins for \$1.1 billion, will relinquish control of Gates and join the Tomkins board as a non-executive director. The agreement indicates that Mr Gates will provide consulting services for five years from completion of the Gates deal, and includes an undertaking not to compete with Gates or Tomkins.

Tomkins confirmed yesterday that it had received regulatory approval to acquire Gates and announced a rise in full-year profits, from £303 million to £323 million, with increased order books for the current year. The dividend is up 17 per cent, to 7.25p, for the full year, after a 7 per cent rise in earnings per share to 18.7p.

Greg Hutchings, chairman of Tomkins, said that operating margins were up in all six business sectors in spite of difficult winter weather in North America. Profits at Tomkins' US lawnmower business suffered a 25 per cent slide, to £35.8 million, because

the record snowfall led to delayed lawnmower sales.

RHM, the milling and baking business, raised profits by 17 per cent after a 2p bread price rise in April last year and another 1p in February. RHM's margins rose 17 per cent last year, to 5.7 per cent. Sales of hand guns by Smith & Wesson were down after unusually high volumes in the previous year caused by talk of gun control in the US.

Tomkins is issuing \$1.16 billion in convertible preference shares to the vendors of Gates, which will carry a fixed annual dividend of \$50.8 million (£36.4 million). The preference shares convert into a maximum £226.7 million ordinary shares, about 16 per cent of the share capital, but the company emphasised that the minimum conversion price was 334p, 25 per cent higher than the current share price.

Ian Duncan, Tomkins' finance director, said the company hoped to save up to a third of the £753 million purchase price by more efficient use of working capital. "Their accounting systems are poor, they didn't manage the balance sheet," he said.

Tempus page 28

Unigate spreads to Italy

By SARAH BAGNALL

UNIGATE, the foods group, is consolidating its position as the UK's largest margarine and spreads business by expanding into Italy with the purchase of Kraft's European operation for £77.25 million.

The acquisition adds Vitalite and Golden Churn to Unigate's existing UK brands — Gold, Utterly Butterly and Mono. As a result, Unigate's share of the UK margarine and spreads market will rise from 14 per cent to 25 per cent.

Ross Buckland, chief executive, said: "This acquisition adds high-profile brands to our existing portfolio and significantly expands our market presence in the UK."

Unigate's St Ivel spreads business, which operates in the UK and France, has annual sales of £125 million while Kraft's UK brands had sales of £59.2 million in 1995.

Unigate is also acquiring Kraft's Valle and Valle Grangusto brands, which had sales of £6.6 million in 1995, representing 40 per cent of the Italian retail tub margarine market. Overall, the acquired businesses made operating profits, before central costs, of £13.9 million. Net assets stand at about £14 million.

The purchase, conditional on the deal not being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, is expected to be earnings enhancing in this financial year. Unigate's shares rose 4p to 399p.

Cashless victory for General

By ERIC REGULY

THE cable industry took another step towards consolidation yesterday when General Cable, the eighth largest player, acquired full control of Yorkshire Cable for £160 million.

General, controlled by Compagnie Générale des Eaux, the French utilities group, bought the 50 per cent of Yorkshire that it does not already own from Singapore Telecom. It is understood that KPN, the Dutch phone company that is building a cable business in Britain, was keen to acquire the stake.

General is paying no cash. In exchange for the half share, it is issuing Singapore Telecom with \$4.5 million new General shares. Based on General's closing price of 190p on July 4, the deal is worth about £160 million and will give Singapore Telecom a 25 per cent stake in General. Singapore Telecom plans to reduce that holding to 10 per cent or less by selling General shares in the open market.

Separately, General is planning an international offering of 75 million new shares to raise up to £45 million. The funds will be used to provide working capital for the enlarged group and to repay a loan made by Singapore Telecom to Yorkshire. The share price is to be set on July 31.

Tempus page 28

We'll go on listening even when you can't go on talking.

When you can't talk, we'll go through it with you. The Samaritans

A Registered Charity.

Every year at The Samaritans we receive over a million totally silent phone calls. For whatever reason, the callers can't begin to tell us what's troubling them.

Equally, callers who do start may be unable to go on — many hang up halfway through a conversation, or simply go quiet.

With all of these callers, though, we have one golden rule: we never stop listening. We won't be the ones to hang up or say goodbye.

Our number's in the phone book, or you can call our new national number on 0345 90 90 90. Every call is confidential. Even if you can't talk we'll listen.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Sell-off in London fails to materialise

THE sell-off on the London stock market that had been predicted in some quarters after Friday's 100-plus point plunge in the Dow Jones industrial average failed to materialise.

Share prices in London ended virtually unchanged on the day, with the FT-SE 100 index closing 1.7 down at 3,745.5. Brokers who had been expecting a further sell-off at the start of trading in New York were also pleasantly surprised with the Dow Jones opening virtually unchanged.

Friday's upset had been prompted by the latest US employment figures showing the number of out of working falling to its lowest level for six years. This was the fourth consecutive monthly fall and it is rapidly developing into a similar pattern, providing the bears with the opportunity to sell the market on the pretext that US interest rates are set to rise. But as brokers in London point out that US interest rates have not risen throughout all this.

One broker said: "This is getting all very predictable. London copes well, but it spoils a good day's trading with investors waiting for Wall Street to open before committing themselves."

Grand Metropolitan was marked 15p higher at 437p on turnover of 8.5 million as talk of a possible takeover was revived. It followed news of a confidential report over the weekend claiming Guinness had considered launching a £13 billion bid for Grand Metropolitan. The leaked report had been put together by Lazard's merchant bank last year, but never acted on.

It was suggested that Guinness might demerge its brewing and spirits division and then launch a bid for GrandMet. Guinness has rejected any suggestion it wants to bid. Its shares closed 4p better at 474p.

Some brokers are sceptical that Guinness will bid. NatWest Securities says the issue reflects badly on Guinness, which is clearly looking at every option to enhance shareholder value. Lehman Brothers said Guinness had clearly considered such a move in order to be spared the pain of spending money on its whisky brands, which would weaken earnings.

Several large lines of stock went through the market, bolstering an otherwise low level of total market turnover.



Greg Hutchings, chairman of Tomkins, saw the shares rise

These included 4.84 million Vodafone at 283p, leaving the price 2p cheaper at 285p, a million Asda, unchanged at 20p, 1.04 million Williams Holdings at 328.5p (down 1p at 330p), two million ScottishPower at 307p (up from 306p), 400,000 GEC at 375p (up 6p at 374p) and 1.24 million Rentokil at 418.5p (unchanged at 420p). Glaxo

an international conference at the weekend heard that both treatments might prove effective in the fight against HIV and Aids when used in conjunction with a cocktail of other drugs. Holliday Chemicals climbed 1p to 144p, hoping to benefit from the increased generic competition to Zantac.

Hanson touched a six-year

low of 167.5p before rallying to close 2p easier at 171.5p after outlining further plans for its proposed demerger. Unfortunately, the market found little to cheer. The demerger of Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco are pencilled in for October 1 and should be tax-free for British shareholders.

Full-year figures from Tomkins contained few sur-

prises, with pre-tax profits of £322.9 million already forecast at the time of the \$1.4 billion acquisition of Gates in the US earlier this year. Nevertheless, shares in the group, which has interests ranging from Rank Hovis McDougal to Smith & Wesson guns, were marked 3p higher at 251p, with brokers excited about prospects after the acquisition of Gates. BZW is looking for a final outcome in the current year of £425 million.

First-time dealings in Pordum Foods, which provides "gourmet food" dishes delivered to the door, achieved a useful premium on the Alternative Investment Market. Placed at 3p by Wise Speke and Keith Bayley Rogers, the shares started life at 3p, up before eventually settling at 3.5p.

The placing of 28.5 million new shares will raise £850,000 of new money and values the company at £5.5 million. The company want to expand the business and go nationwide. At present, it has a 32-strong sales force operating from three bases.

Speculative buying brought shares of the independent television broadcasters back into focus. Yorkshire Television rose 15p to £1.55, with its lawn mower business stuck in a snowdrift during its critical selling season but group margins were up 9 per cent.

TEMPUS

Golden Gates

TOMKINS is positively bursting with enthusiasm for its new toy, the Gates Corporation, and it is easy to understand why. Gates is the market leader in transmission belts, a product that has considerable growth in mature economies where it is replacing chain drives, and boasts a foothold in the developing world. The deal is well-structured: the preference issue minimises dilution with a conversion premium of 25 per cent above the current share price. The annual coupon of £37 million is well covered by Gates profits.

Given the circumstances, the share market's reaction has been grudging. Tomkins had a difficult year in America with its lawn mower business stuck in a snowdrift during its critical selling season but group margins were up 9 per cent.

If Tomkins had noticeably failed to deliver

on past promises, it would be easy to account for the poor rating. Some of the more extravagant claims made yesterday — a third of the purchase price is recoverable through better stock control — need to be watered down. Gates operates in many countries where cash is scarce and a large after-market business implies a slower stock turn. Nevertheless, even if it only squeezes half that much cash from working capital, the money saved adds £10 million to profit.

Yesterday's results demonstrated that Tomkins' last big acquisition — another target for doom merchants — is coming right with a 17 per cent rise in profits and margins. There is no reason why Tomkins should not increase its earnings by 10 per cent, nor is there any reason why the shares should trade on a prospective multiple of only 12 times.

The CRA merger has yielded benefits, notably savings from combining exploration activities, although it is unclear whether the budget has been cut or the spending reallocated. The larger benefit from consolidating CRA has been the reduction in exposure to copper but not enough to avoid a profits decline.

RTZ-CRA

NO Japanese broker has been shoring up the price of RTZ shares, but the Sanimto copper affair has done little good to the mining stock and its share price is looking fragile.

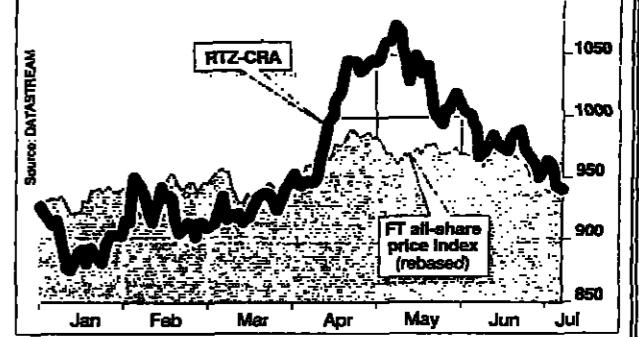
High copper and aluminium prices fuelled much of RTZ's growth last year and the artificially high copper price pushed the mining group's shares to more than £10. That rise continued in spite of warnings from metal analysts that new sources of copper from supermines in Chile would bring the ratio of supply and demand out of killer.

The slide in the copper price to 90 cents per pound could reduce copper earnings this year by \$260 million with another \$100 million lost in the falling

value of work in progress.

But these are not the only problems facing RTZ. Aluminium prices have also weakened while the merger with CRA has brought with it higher costs because of the strength of the Australian dollar. With metal priced in US dollars, the rise in value of the local currency has caused a loss of margin.

CLOBBERED BY COPPER



General Cable

GENERAL CABLE'S purchase of the outstanding 50 per cent of Yorkshire Cable was essentially an inside deal and, as such, says little about industry values. The price tag is neither dear nor a bargain, and General's shares reacted accordingly.

It was the price much higher. General would have been accused of inflating the value of its own franchises while a discount would have meant shooting itself in the foot. From an investor's point of view, cable companies are indistinguishable.

A better gauge of the industry's fortunes arrives later this month, when Videotron, one of the largest cable companies, acquires a new owner. Several offers are on the table and the sale could set a benchmark.

In the meantime, there is no rush to buy cable shares. True, their fortunes do not look as bleak as they did last year, but there is no competition.

Hanson had taken substantial balance sheet provisions to provide for the US Government levy on coal to fund compensation for black lung but these are now to be reversed and the annual charge will be treated as a tax to profit. Because the change has no cash consequence, discounted cash flow values of Peabody should be unchanged.

Hanson's share price was almost unchanged yesterday, suggesting that analysts no longer regard its earnings as a reliable valuation measure. This is all to the good but there is an unfortunate tendency among the investment community to value companies on earnings when the shares are rising, only reverting to cash flow when the outlook is poor.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 5,587.77 (-0.37) S&P Composite 556.25 (-1.24)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 21,294.94 (-307.48)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 10,890.05 (-1,287.08)

Amsterdam: EOE Index 554.45 (-1.48)

Sydney: 2191.2 (-30.48)

Frankfurt: DAX 2551.04 (-32.15)

Singapore: Straits 2221.31 (-37.65)

Brussels: General 9515.03 (-69.75)

Paris: CAC-40 3799.06 (-19.73)

Zurich: SCA Gen 798.70 (-2.10)

London: FT 30 2766.3 (+2.4) FT 100 3741.5 (-1.7) FT-SE Mid 250 4393.5 (-2.7) FT-SE 250 1881.5 (-3.3) FT-SE All Share 10,860.42 (-1,19.2) FTN Non Financials 1982.38 (-1.54) FT Fixed Interest 1138.5 (-1.37) FT Govt Secs 92.66 (-0.03) FT Bonds 324.97 FT DEMAT 9.43m FT DEMAT (Diameter) 214.42 (-0.01) US\$ 1,554.1 (0.0103) German Mark 2,734.7 (-0.028) Exchange Index 86.7 (same) Bank of England official close (pm) ECU 1.2935 LSDR 1.0799 RTZ 152.9 May (2.28) Jan 1987-100 RTX 152.5 May (2.28) Jan 1987-100

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City Technology 138 ...

Concurrent Techn 19 ...

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Fibernet Group 14 ...

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Gold Min S Ws 12 ...

IES 285 230xd ...

IES Ws 215 ...

Independent Brit HI 780d ...

Independent Env 94 75 ...

Indus Hotels 175 100 ...

Matrix Healthcare 110 ...

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Simcabi Mont 140 172 ...

Solid State Supp 90 1 ...

Starlife 225 27 ...

Sun Life & P 220 ...

Theo Fennell 118 105 ...

Vocals Group 93 113 ...

Whitbread 150 150 ...

Witney 140 140 ...

RTZ-CRA

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The slide in the copper price to 90 cents per pound could reduce copper earnings this year by \$260 million with another \$100 million lost in the falling

value of work in progress. But these are not the only problems facing RTZ. Aluminium prices have also weakened while the merger with CRA has brought with it higher costs because of the strength of the Australian dollar. With metal priced in US dollars, the rise in value of the local currency has caused a loss of margin.

Given the circumstances, it will be easy to account for the poor rating. Some of the more extravagant claims made yesterday — a third of the purchase price is recoverable through better stock control — need to be watered down. Gates operates in many countries where cash is scarce and a large after-market business implies a slower stock turn. Nevertheless, even if it only squeezes half that much cash from working capital, the money saved adds £10 million to profit.

Yesterday's results demonstrated that Tomkins' last big acquisition — another target for doom merchants — is coming right with a 17 per cent rise in profits and margins. There is no reason why Tomkins should not increase its earnings by 10 per cent, nor is there any reason why the shares should trade on a prospective multiple of only 12 times.

GENERAL CABLE

GENERAL CABLE'S purchase of the outstanding 50 per cent of Yorkshire Cable was essentially an inside deal and, as such, says little about industry values. The price tag is neither dear nor a bargain, and General's shares reacted accordingly.

It was the price much higher. General would have been accused of inflating the value of its own franchises while a discount would have meant shooting itself in the foot. From an investor's point of view, cable companies are indistinguishable.

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Lewis to give
it the gas

POLITICS, banking and now gas for Simon Lewis, blue-eyed boy of the adoring public relations fraternity. Lewis, 37, has resigned as head of corporate affairs at NatWest Group after nearly five years to take on a similar role at British Gas Energy. He starts in September, leaving time to settle in before a general election — Lewis represented the Social Democrat Party in 1988 — and his investiture as president of the Institute of Public Relations.

Lewis was seconded to the SDP from Shropshire, and later surfaced at the former SG Warburg. NatWest signed him up in March 1992 — a week after the group unveiled its worst results since 1975. "I never shirked hard work," says Lewis, who supports Arsenal and says he has given up on politics.

SFO squeezed

NO shortage of people seeking to join the Serious Fraud Office, however dismal the image. The latest SFO annual report shows 472 people applied for 12 jobs last year, covering posts including accountants and investigators. In the year to April, permanent staff increased from 137 to 162. The SFO admits it has hired a team of "space consultants" in an attempt to squeeze more value out of its Elm House headquarters.

FRENCH defections...
Andy Hartwill, former equity strategist at Banque Paribas, is the new senior UK equity strategist at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull Securities. He picks up from Corey Miller, who skipped to Crédit Lyonnais.



Hanson hiccup

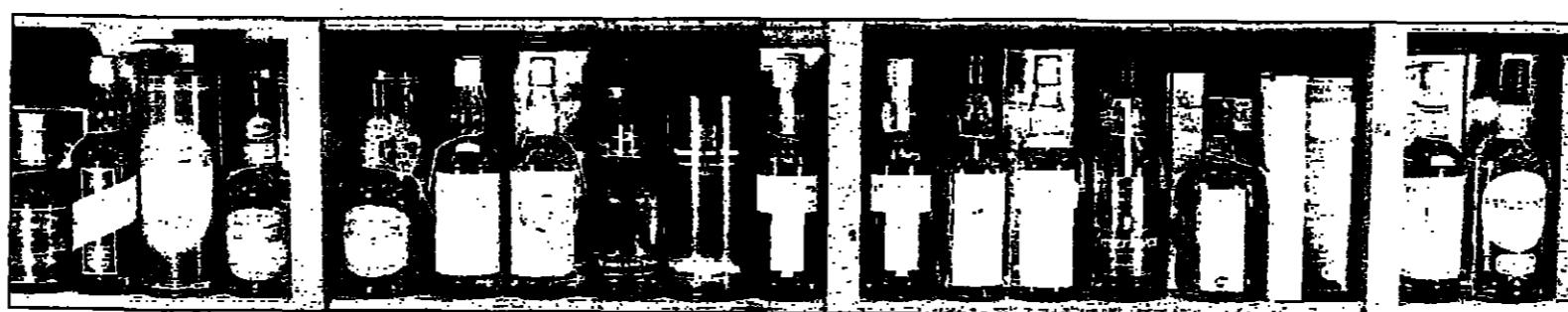
NEW HANSON, new danger? Certainly a number of fund managers seem to be fearing so. New Hanson, as the conglomerate is calling itself before its split into four companies, seems to have had little luck on its roadshow. Company representatives, having trundled up to take the New Hanson story to a Scottish institution, were told that its fund managers had just sold the last of their Hanson shares.

Sinking feeling

ALL at sea for Ernst & Young over the weekend, as 188 partners and staff descended on Southampton for a spot of sailing. Not only were proceedings delayed by technical problems — one of the boats caught fire — but lack of wind resulted in several craft racing backwards. A special champagne prize went to the team from Inverness, which succeeded in drifting three times around the starter's boat before getting under way.

Clear as mud

WHEN The Treasury's in-house magazine, *Chequerboard*, won an award from the Plain English Campaign yesterday, even the civil servants thought it was funny. So off they went shouting: "Merde! Laudate! Departimenti Chancellorem!" *Chequerboard's* 1,600 readers — serving and retired members of staff — no doubt know this Latin prose means: By Hercules, praise to the Chancellor's Department.



The City may be muttering about the need for the drinks sector to restructure, but ownership is already concentrated in a small number of hands

Drinks groups seek cure for hangover from 1980s

Alasdair
Murray asks
whether the
sector faces
a shake-up

The directors of Guinness will still be feeling a little red-faced this morning after seeing the company's most private fantasies splashed all over the weekend's press.

Guinness was quick to deny formally that it has any desire to launch a £13 billion hostile takeover bid for Grand Metropolitan or even that it is prepared to split the company by demerging its brewing arm. But while the City was prepared to accept Guinness's assertion that it was merely exploring every option, the pressure for it to take decisive action has been growing.

Guinness, in common with GrandMet and Allied Domecq, its chief rivals, is finding it has a limited number of options in an already crowded drinks market. While the sector has underperformed the FT-SE 100 index by about 45 per cent in the past four years, the companies are finding that repeated brainstorming has not uncovered any quick solutions.

The industry has been suffering from a huge hangover since the heady days of the late 1980s came to an end. In that decade the drinks companies could reap huge profits by tapping into the booming consumer market with their aspiration-led marketing campaigns.

But the consumer boom collapsed and the companies found they were losing volume while stiff resistance from the increasingly powerful supermarket chains made it hard to pass on price increases. At the same time, the companies reined in their huge marketing spend to protect profits, only to find that younger consumers were shifting their drinking habits from spirits to newer beverages such as alcoholic fruit drinks.

Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness, believes that the industry has reached an impasse, caught between low-growth mature markets in the West and high-growth, but low-mart-



Finn Johnson, left, the managing director of United Distillers, with Tony Greener



Tony Hale admits his portfolio is too broad Lord Sheppard of Diddigemere retired this year

gin, emerging markets. These markets, in particular China, do hold out long-term hope for the industry, but companies will need to invest much more before they reap real rewards. With organic growth viewed as too slow to restore the gloss to drinks sector share prices, the City is muttering about the need to restructure. But the sector is already concentrated in a small number of hands.

Guinness has been hardest hit by the declining fortunes of the spirit market — it derives about 75 per cent of its £1 billion profit from its spirits division, United Distillers. Although the company's performance has never been as poor as that of Allied Domecq, it is a persistent stock market underperformer and even a £500 million share buyback in March failed to

reignite the share price. Even Bernard Arnault, a Guinness director and chairman of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton which holds a 21 per cent stake in Guinness, has publicly voiced his concerns over the future of company and hinted he would like the company to demerge.

Guinness has made it clear that it wants to hold on to its brewing operations which generate about £300 million a year in profits and have been growing faster than the spirits business in recent years. Many analysts are also unconvinced that a demerger would add any value to the share price.

By ruling out a demerger, the company was almost forced to

consider the logic of a bid for GrandMet. Adding International Distillers and Vintners, GrandMet's spirits division, would complete Guinness's brand portfolio and give it control of a leading vodka, Smirnoff, one of the few spirits brands to show consistent growth. Consolidation of the two spirits divisions would also allow Guinness to make huge cost savings.

GrandMet is less reliant than its two main rivals on its spirits division, which provides only about 40 per cent of its profits. Its recent performance has also been better, with volumes of its main brands, which include Smirnoff, J&B Rare whisky, Baileys' and Grand Marnier, rising 5 per cent at the half-year stage. GrandMet has also forced

through price rises of 2.5 per cent which it believes will stick.

The group has been busy redefining itself since the departure of Lord Sheppard of Diddigemere as chairman this year. It may no longer be the sprawling conglomerate of the early 1980s but still has diverse food and drink interests. George Bull, the new chairman, argues that the company is a brand-builder. Such a strategy makes it even more unlikely that the company is looking to offload its drinks division, which is a branded business. In spite of the inevitable tongue-wagging in the City, a sale of one of GrandMet's peripheral food interests, Burger King for instance, remains the company's most likely strategy.

In contrast to the recovering GrandMet, drinks sales and profits are still falling at Allied Domecq. Tony Hale, chief executive, has admitted that its drinks portfolio, which includes Ballantine's and Teacher's whisky, Beefeater gin and Courvoisier, is too broad. Allied has promised to increase its marketing spend this year and concentrate on promoting its main brands.

Allied Domecq also has a new chairman in Sir Christopher Hogg, and although the City appears a touch more optimistic about the company's future, it is still regarded as vulnerable to a bid. With many of its non-drink businesses also struggling, the drinks division does not look attractive enough to arouse the jealous passions of its rivals. The City is more concerned that the company successfully disposes of its stake in Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewing joint venture.

With the problems faced by all three drinks groups public knowledge, the pressure to take some kind of aggressive action is unlikely to abate in the near future. But while GrandMet and Allied can concentrate on tinkering with their food brands, Guinness appears to have few options beyond raising its marketing spend and hoping that the much-vaunted consumer recovery arrives.

Guinness's firm denial to the Stock Exchange may have ruled out the two obvious avenues for the present, but the company may well find that it will have to revisit these plans in the not-so-distant future.



JANET
BUSH

Clarke plays forecasting game with his instincts

Kenneth Clarke has never encumbered himself with the minutiae of economic forecasting and his best policy decisions have been based on instinct. Today's Summer Forecast should be judged in that context.

The Chancellor is rightly sceptical of attempting to fine-tune policy on the basis of a decimal point here or there on forecasts. Take the recent example of revisions to the national accounts and the balance of payments that reduced the 1995 current account deficit to £2.9 billion from £6.7 billion.

Remember when the economy appeared to have grown by about 0.7 per cent in the first quarter of last year? Eddie George counselled a rise in interest rates. As it turned out, first-quarter growth was revised down to 0.4 per cent. Mr Clarke looked to his instincts, refused to be rattled and won the intellectual argument.

Go back to the now notorious policy misjudgments of Nigel Lawson, then Chancellor in Sir Christopher Hogg, and although the City appears a touch more optimistic about the company's future, it is still regarded as vulnerable to a bid. With many of its non-drink businesses also struggling, the drinks division does not look attractive enough to arouse the jealous passions of its rivals. The City is more concerned that the company successfully disposes of its stake in Carlsberg-Tetley, the brewing joint venture.

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Treasury seems genuinely to have been caught out by the emergence of a black hole on the tax revenue front, even now being furiously analysed by the Treasury and the Inland Revenue. There has been a simple miscalculation. But at other times forecasts are subject to political calculation.

Norman Lamont's March 1993 Budget prediction of a £50 billion PSBR in the following financial year was way above even the most pessimistic of City expectations. At the same time, he was threatening to impose VAT on fuel. The message to his party was: "Control public spending or you will be faced with a far more unacceptable option." The PSBR undershot that forecast by £4 billion, but Mr Lamont set the tone for years of successful control of spending. VAT on fuel was ultimately rejected by the Conservatives — as was Mr Lamont.

There is a political element to Mr Clarke's PSBR forecast this time too. This Summer Forecast precedes the last Budget before the election and Mr Clarke is under pressure to deliver tax cuts. He might be tempted to publish a gaudy PSBR number — such as £30 billion — with scope for an undershoot. This, together with an estimated £3 billion worth of pessimism built into spending figures, could give him room for some tax cuts. Arguing against such a strategy is the fact that financial markets are wise to such shenanigans and the Chancellor's desire to pen-

cil in a forecast that shows the PSBR still on a steep enough downward trajectory to reach the magic 3 per cent upper limit written into the Maastricht treaty by 1997. Even if Britain does not want to join the single currency, Mr Clarke wants to show that we could.

And what of growth forecasts? In a recent interview with *The Times*, Mr Clarke dismissed attempts to forecast growth to the percentage point as an intellectual exercise. He said the level of growth did not matter as much as whether growth existed, whether it was getting healthier, whether it would continue to do so and whether it was sustainable. All this appears to be the case and yet Mr Clarke is virtually certain to revise down his growth forecast. Let us hope that his industrial friends in the Midlands see the Summer Forecast for what it is and don't adjust down their investment and employment plans.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Psion should sugar the bid pill in its offer for Amstrad

From G. G. Fiebel

One would have thought that all these factors would have been added value to the assets and shares.

Indeed, the share price was last September prior to Mr Sugar making his usual statement on the morning of the AGM and then paring company and without calling an extraordinary general meeting to obtain approval, is "restructuring" internally prior to dealing with Psion at a low price, to the detriment of the smaller shareholders.

Surely he is not incorporating the lossmaking ACE division into Betacom out of pur-

NICs are not a form of taxation

From Mr David Lindsay

Sir, The two correspondents who complained of injustices in the state pension system (June 22) seem not to appreciate that it is basically, a system of social insurance in which contributions (NICs) are related to earnings (but with an anomalous upper limit), while the benefits (pensions) are related not to the amount contributed, but to the NIC record, with an upper level which is attained by most main breadwinners.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID LINDSAY,
36 Orchard Coombe,
Whitchurch Hill,
Reading, Berkshire.

A simple soul takes a look at figures

From Brian Charles Hunt

in the belief that they are advancing the interests of their electors.

As far as deregulation is concerned, I agree that there could be less regulation, but far more important, in my view, would be a better way of drafting legislation.

One is not only impeded by the language and indifferent presentation but bewildered by the plethora of amendments, repeals, commendations and the like. And that is only the Act.

It will almost invariably be supported by regulations and then by "guidance". The search for the meaning of some provision can be, at best, lengthy and at worst endless. It seems to be left to the unfortunate readers to battle their way through what is little better than an outmoded shambles and to grapple with complex cross-references, exceptions, exceptions to exceptions and hidden "interpretations".

Is it impossible for government to impose some discipline and introduce some form of editing into the whole corpus of legislation? Perhaps it could start by giving a contents list in its Acts?

Yours faithfully,
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As President Nelson Mandela begins a state visit, R. W. Johnson

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From apartheid to togetherness

President Mandela begins a state visit to London today as his Government nears the halfway stage of its five-year term, having successfully weathered several crises.

The first of these, the departure of F. W. de Klerk's National Party from the Government of National Unity — something Mr Mandela tried hard to avert — has gone amicably and smoothly. Once, rumours of such a departure would have been enough to panic the markets, particularly if it was believed (as has indeed occurred) that many of the gaps left by the NP in the national and provincial governments would be filled by members of the Communist Party.

But those days are gone. For it is now generally realised that the African National Congress has in effect been in sole charge of government for some time and that the Communists have essentially had their teeth drawn by the collapse of the Soviet bloc. Certainly, the markets have not reacted this time and business as usual has been resumed.

The second great question, that of the succession to Mr Mandela, has also been effectively settled in recent months with the triumph of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki on every front. Pallo Jordan, the Minister of Telecommunications who had publicly resisted Mr Mbeki's plans for special privileges for the Government, was sacked and only readmitted to a (lesser) Cabinet post after he had been forced to eat humble pie, while Mr Mbeki's chief rival, Cyril Ramaphosa, has resigned the leadership of the ANC in order to pursue a business career.

Mr Mbeki lacks Mr Mandela's charisma and, for all his undoubted ability, is not universally liked, but both the ANC and the country now have a clear sense of the way ahead and one large uncertainty has been removed.

It is possible that an even greater breakthrough has been achieved in KwaZulu/Natal, where the struggle between the ANC and

Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) has cost 15,000 lives in the past decade.

The recent local elections there passed off far more peacefully than most observers had feared and both sides now seem to acknowledge that an effective stalemate has been reached: the ANC controls the major cities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg, the economic heart of the province, while the IFP controls all the rest. It

has again begun to talk of relaxing exchange controls. Nonetheless, the currency collapse came as a major shock to the Government — which has still to deal with the probable inflationary effects and industrial action which may be sparked by devaluation.

Business confidence has, moreover, been badly dented

and estimates of this year's growth rate have been lowered

from 4 per cent to 3 per cent or

less — and South Africa needs at

least 3 per cent growth to prevent unemployment from climbing.

Only the most agile of foreign investors were able to enjoy the great run-up in South African bond and equity markets in 1995 and then get out in time.

The effect has been to convince many of them that South Africa is a good place for short term punts in the bond market, but not for long term investment in real assets.

Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, will succeed Mr Mandela

It is, of course, a major aim of Mr Mandela's visit to Britain to change that perception. Britain is South Africa's third biggest trading partner, by far its biggest foreign investor, and is still to a considerable extent its cultural metropole — so what Britain does matters enormously.

Nicely, the financial crisis occasioned by the dramatic 20 per cent fall in the value of the rand earlier this year appears to have been weathered. The rand seems now to have stabilised at about R6.70 to the pound and the Government

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JULY 9 1996

assesses the Republic's progress and prospects



President Mandela enjoys the admiration and affection of South Africans of all races

There is perhaps a danger that too much time can be spent celebrating what is past, but for all the sense of policy drift that surrounds the Government, there is something to celebrate about the present, too.

Apartheid has gone, race relations are freer and better than ever before, a new constitution is at last in place, the economy is growing after years of decline, inflation is under 7 per cent, political violence is down and at least the first major difficulties of the transition have been surmounted.

There is no doubt that in these achievements South Africa owes a great deal to good political leadership when it mattered most, first from Mr de Klerk, who launched and carried through the democratic transition, and thereafter to Mr Mandela's calm authority and entire generosity of spirit, which have contributed so much to reconciliation.

He enjoys the unforced ad-

miration and affection of South Africans of all races who, as they compare their president with the likes of Banda, Obote or Mugabe, realise how supremely lucky they have been.

The Queen, who has invited Mr Mandela to Britain, must reflect that Britain has been lucky, too. For years the South African issue threatened to split the Commonwealth, with Britain almost fatally isolated from her friends. Now, all such worries are gone and the new president in Pretoria not only bears no grudges for that past but publicly says that a good relationship with Britain is the most important of all for his country.

He has led South Africa back into the Commonwealth, helped to usher Mozambique into the Commonwealth as well and provided a moral lead to the Commonwealth over the issue of Nigeria. It is far more than could have been hoped. Few visitors could be so welcome.

hit snags

cover potential debts has failed to reassure banks.

Yet there is room for optimism. Leading the field in *stepping up delivery* is Mpumalanga (formerly the Eastern Transvaal), thanks in large part to its energetic Premier. In May the provincial government backed the launch of a large-scale housing project in a joint government-private sector venture.

Where delivery systems exist, the RDP is close to meeting targets. The Government points out that about 400 water projects are bringing clean water to three million people, nearly three million homes have been electrified. R350 million has been spent on policing, 3.5 million children receive free school meals, nearly 200 rural clinics are operating and there is free health care for women and children under five. Many of the marginalised warmly praise the Government's efforts after the neglectful years of apartheid.

But in a country with more than five million unemployed and widespread poverty, the dark cloud of affordability hangs over the RDP. In some

recently electrified areas, residents living in shacks and houses cannot afford to buy light bulbs. At housing conferences speakers have lamented the unrealistic nature of a social programme that seeks to provide unaffordable homes for the poor. Almost half of the country's homeless population earn less than R1,000 monthly and only about a quarter of the population can afford a conventional house. To be able to build or buy a 30 square-metre home on its own plot a family would need a monthly income of at least R3,000.

The key to the RDP's long-term success is economic growth and the RDP's delivery timespan has recently been revised from five to 25 years. The Government insists that the aims of the RDP have not been abandoned and talks about moving towards smoother streamlining, reflecting greater recognition of the need for support from the private sector and non-government organisations.

The ANC is only too aware that the RDP remains an important symbol of the hopes of millions of South Africans.

THIERRY BOLSTAD/PANOS



The new: low-cost housing is a priority for the Government

100 Miss 150

FOCUS: SOUTH AFRICA 33

Trying for darker shade of pale

At a weekend media conference in February F. W. de Klerk, the National Party leader, cheerfully introduced the party's first black minister, assuring his audience that his man was a "competent black". Black journalists angrily protested in national newspapers at the perceived insult.

It was hardly the ideal outcome for an event staged to sell to sceptical South African media the new, non-racial Nationalists. The incident says much about the fortunes of the party that introduced apartheid and is forever being reminded of its deeds.

Earlier in February, at a gathering of the party faithful in Pretoria, Mr de Klerk, speaking six years to the day after he unbanned the ANC and released Nelson Mandela, sought to cast the new National Party as a Christian-based, value-driven organisation that would remove racial voting patterns in South Africa. But attempts by the "Nats" to reinvent themselves were immediately derided by the African National Congress and sections of the media. "They just don't get it," scoffed one parliamentary correspondent.

The National Party, like a wounded animal caught in an historical snare, appears trapped by its racially exclusive past and unsure how to break free without inflicting further injury. In the 1994

national elections the Nationalists obtained 20.7 per cent of the vote with majority support from whites, Coloureds (mixed race) and Indians. The ANC scored 62.7 per cent, mostly black with a sprinkling of support from other race groups. The Nationalists are only too aware that if they hold out any hope of returning to power this reservoir of black votes must be tapped.

Last month the Nationalists pulled out of the Government of National Unity, leaving South Africa's fledgling democracy without a viable opposition capable of more than carping from the sidelines.

Through their new role of official opposition the Nats insist that they can woo new support by offering a clear, and better, alternative to ANC rule regardless of race, creed or colour. But they are faced with a conundrum: how to maintain white support while reaching out to black communities that suffered under 48 years of apartheid rule.

There are no easy answers. Striving to become a darker shade of pale — yet not too pale — is no easy task in a highly race-conscious country obsessed with the past. The dilemma the Nationalists face was highlighted by the recent local government elections. To raise Coloured support they played on fears of African domination and issues like affirmative action.

POLITICS



F.W. de Klerk dilemma
Trapped by its past, can the National Party reinvent itself?

perceived to benefit blacks at the cost of Coloureds. Similarly, by pandering to white constituents on a range of issues, Nationalist politicians have criticised policies that benefit blacks.

Mr de Klerk talks about a future non-white leader of the Nationalists and harps on about the realignment of South African politics — he has flirted with strategic alliance.

ances — but in the short term this seems nothing less than fanciful.

The recent local government elections in Western Cape and KwaZulu/Natal confirmed the basic pattern of racial voting first seen in the 1994 national elections. By and large most whites, Coloureds and Indians voted for the National Party, while blacks voted for the African National Congress and, in KwaZulu/Natal, the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Inkatha, which won 10.5 per cent of the vote in 1994, remains essentially a regional party and in its present form seems incapable of branching beyond the borders of KwaZulu/Natal. Local government elections in the province, under IFP control at regional level, gave the party 49 per cent of the vote but all main urban centres were lost to the ANC.

Mr Friedman believes that the only way in which the ANC can get into serious trouble is if an influential ANC leader decides to break with the past, also an unlikely prospect in the near future. "Party loyalties are very strong and the ANC could be in power for a decade or two without being seriously challenged," he said. "South Africa seems set to follow the same path as Mexico or India where regular elections are held but one party continues to dominate for a long time."

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■ POP 1

The reconstituted Eagles take flight, but the music-making stays obstinately earthbound



■ POP 2

... while in Milton Keynes, Bon Jovi prove their stadium-rock credentials

THE TIMES ARTS



■ MUSIC

Cheltenham hears the first British performance of Magnus Lindberg's big new work



■ INTERVIEW

At 86, Constance Cummings is still game for a new Chekhov staging in Chichester

POP: The Eagles bring their favourites to the faithful; Bon Jovi take their music to the masses

Winging but no soaring

The Eagles
RDS, Dublin

The reunited Eagles opened the European leg of their *Hell Freezes Over* world tour by winging their way through a three-hour greatest hits selection at the RDS Showjumping Arena — but never exactly soaring above the ordinary. Back on the road for their first tour (which reaches England this week) since their acrimonious split in 1980, they opened with *Hotel California*.

You would be hard put to think of a less appropriate setting for this cautionary tale of the downside of the unadulterated hedonism that was *de rigueur* on the West Coast in the 1970s, than a rainy Dublin horse-show stadium peopled by umbrella-wielding mortgage holders.

The tacky desert-themed stage design also seemed hopelessly out of place. Yet it was precisely because it gestures towards a world far more exotic than the one most of us inhabit that made it such a potent symbol of the Eagles music. It suggested permanent sunshine and vast open spaces to drive a car through on the road to the next party.

Of course, the reality was that in the Seventies Don Henley and co were as likely to be fleeing the narcotics unit of the local police department as sauntering into town footloose and fancy-free, but when *Peaceful Easy Feeling* is in full swing, such thoughts never enter your head.

This was the problem: it was all a bit too peaceful for my liking, and lacked that element of danger or unpredictability that all great rock concerts should have. And it was all too easy for Messrs Henley, Frey, Felder, Walsh and Schmidt: they had a job to do and they did it very professionally, ably assisted by four extra musicians. But they could afford not to take it to the limit because there were nearly 40,000 nostalgia-prone fans intent on enjoying themselves come-what-may.

And so every middle-of-the-road and adult-oriented rock classic that the LA-based supergroup relentlessly recited off was welcomed like an old friend, with *Lyn's Eyes* the most warmly received of the pre-intermission set that also included Timothy B. Schmidt's mournful ballad *I Can't Tell You Why*, and more seasoned favourites like *Ordinary Aver-*



Together again: after 16 years apart, the Eagles started their European tour by playing three hours of their old hits, opening with *Hotel California*

age Guy and *One Of These Nights*.

Tequila Sunrise ended the 20-minute break, followed by a healthy smattering of songs from the Eagles' respective solo careers. Joe Walsh chipped in with *Help Me Through The Night*, as well as a rousing version of the Eagles classic *Life's Been Good*. Don Henley's *Boy of Summer* appears to have escaped from the Eighties remarkably unscathed, but Glenn Frey's *The Heat Is On* has not been so fortunate.

The giant video screens on either side of the stage were turned on for the last three songs and they seemed to make a difference, with *Already Gone*, *Desperado* (which got all those fighters waving in the air) and the finale, *Take It Easy*, eliciting a passionate cheer rather than an appreciative clap, which had hitherto been the more common response from the audience.

NICK KELLY

Rock'n'bowl champions

Bon Jovi
National Bowl,
Milton Keynes

Bon Jovi are a good-time party band on a stadium scale, and that is now official. Confirmation came mid-show as I stood next to two enthusiasts in this giant paddock of a venue. Already swaying contentedly from the combined effects of the music and their efforts to drain the nearest bar, they stood with 14 pints of lager at their feet, just enough for two to celebrate the rest of the evening with the New Jersey giants and their big-boned rock'n'roll.

Earlier, Joan Osborne continued her golden year with a boldly mounted set of material from the *Relish* album. She showed admirable understanding for the requirements of an outdoor show of this magnitude, in which a mild-mannered singer-songwriter would sink in the quicksand of the open spaces.

Instead of adding to the atmosphere of distanced anticipation that is often the lot of the second-on-the-bill, she communicated and connected with a strident version of her hit *One of Us*, and others such as *Right Hand Man* and *St Theresa*. As Osborne said with piquancy: "Chicks with acoustic guitars, we're

everywhere, man." The set was decked out in fairground style, although not many local hucksters are fortunate enough to have Volkswagen branding all over their rides. Bon Jovi have long been the optimum band for corporate sponsorship, with their large-scale rock anthems, a portfolio of universal ballads, more than a dozen years' road experience and the kind of mediagenic frontman that any company would die for.

Their tactics on this tour, as ever, are the right ones: Go for lots of close-ups of Jon Bon Jovi on the video screens and give the people £6,000 of them here, by his estimate, the hits. Of which the catalogue is now fat. British audiences may have been a little tardy in buying into the Bon Jovi phenomenon on a regular basis, but the band had 11 Top Ten hits to their name here even before

the current *Hey God* appeared. Five of those were recently ratified off in little more than a year, and their *These Days* album has a double platinum sonicket to our charts.

None of this has been achieved with any particularly fresh wiles. The singalong spirit of *You Give Love A Bad Name*, *Bad Medicine* or *Someday I'll Be Saturday Night* is a shameless hand-me-down from earlier rock totems, and the guitar shapes of Richie Sambora are the same dimensions as many an earlier axe.

In these wide-open spaces, the standard-issue big ballad, be it *Bed of Roses* or *This Ain't A Love Song*, may have had something of a mait finish, but "Round One of the Milton Keynes Bowl," as Mr JBJ put it, still gave them a comfortable victory.

As for our beery friends, one of them was seen disappearing into the crowd with pints in one arm, a new female friend on the other, and an extremely wide smile on his face.

PAUL SEXTON

NEW MUSIC: Two premieres at the Cheltenham Festival

THE festival director Michael Berkeley has a radical policy of including at least one work by a living composer in every concert. It has done Cheltenham nothing but good. True, sponsors have been no easier to find, but the programme feels more vigorous and the audience seems at last to be getting younger.

At the same time, musicians who might not be predisposed towards the contemporary repertoire are being persuaded to think again. Vassily Sinaisky, musical director of the Moscow Philharmonic and shortly to become the principal guest conductor of the BBC Philharmonic, is a case in point.

Alive and tricky

Nash Ensemble/
BBCPO/Sinaisky

It is difficult to think of Sinaisky taking on a work such as Magnus Lindberg's *Arena* in normal circumstances. But there he was in Cheltenham Town Hall, in the

1996 festival's first orchestral concert, conducting the BBC PO in a highly organised British premiere of a substantial and tricky contemporary score.

Written for the Sibelius Conductors' Competition in Helsinki last year, it makes much more sense in this original version than in the chamber-orchestral arrangement (*Arena 2*) recently adopted by the London Sinfonietta. It needs full orchestral resources to realise the breadth of the structural concept — a high-energy mass of motivic detail gradually working itself out in its progress towards a broad, subdued and highly effective climax. Time and care spent in rehearsing such brilliant scoring are well rewarded.

The main feature of the first of the morning concerts in the Pittville Pump Room was a chamber-scale companion piece to Simon Bainbridge's recent *Ad Ora Incerto* for mezzo-soprano and orchestra. His *Four Primo Levi Settings*, commissioned for the occasion by the Cheltenham Festival, were inspired by the same poet and similar post-Holocaust reflections but written for the much more intimate company of mezzo-soprano with clarinet, viola and piano.

Performed by Susan Bickley with the Nash Ensemble — the first of them significantly tolling the macabre B-flat bell of Ravel's *Le Gibet* — they offered an experience of brooding, intense melancholy. Alfred Schnittke's brief but expressive *Mutter*, performed (for the first time in this country) by the same musicians, seemed almost frivolous in comparison.

Jeremy Kingston meets the former Ronald Colman leading lady playing in *Uncle Vanya* at Chichester

Fifty years ago, in the David Lean film of *Blithe Spirit*, Constance Cummings played Wife No 2, talking at furious cross-purposes with Rex Harrison while he was arguing with the ghost of his Wife No 1. She had already been acting in films since the early years of the talkies, and this week she opens in Bill Bryden's star-studded production of *Uncle Vanya* at Chichester, playing Vanya's blue-stocking mother, too busy reading her pamphlets to notice the hearts breaking around her.

She was born in Seattle in 1910. Eighty-six years young is how they put these things in America, and you can see why when you meet someone as lively, lovely and likely to break into giggles of merriment at the memory of something that happened on Broadway or in Hollywood ten or 11 American Presidents ago.

We meet at the end of a day's rehearsal in Chelsea, only a couple of hundred yards away from the house that her husband, Ben Levy, commissioned from the architect Walter Gropius back in 1936, and which has been Cummings's home ever since.

"I managed to escape from my contract with Harry Cohn at Columbia, came over here to make a film and never wanted to go back," she says. "My mother took a bit of umbrage, because she had I think I was being given a film test and taken out to

lady to Ronald Colman." As in all the best tales of this sort, something now goes wrong. "I filmed for about four days — and I was fired! [giggle of laughter] That took me down a peg. They thought I just wasn't sophisticated enough, you see, to play the part."

She and her mother are about to return miserably to New York when the plot takes its next twist. "Ronald Colman, who was a charming man, knew what a terrible blow this was to me, and he said to a friend of his, who was with Myron Selznick, a great big agent in those days, 'Look, just get her one job in any film so that when she gets back to New York she can say, 'Oh, well, I just did a different part.'

And Myron Selznick sent me over to Harry Cohn to make a test for the girl in *The Criminal Code*. I had a scene with Walter Huston, who played the lead, and he said, "Look, I'd like to rehearse a scene like this before we get on the set. Can we do that?" And I had a kind of feeling that he really didn't work in that way, but we did rehearse it, and so I was at ease when we made the film.

"Then, after about two years, I got three months off to come to England. I'd never been out of America before, so I thought, 'Yippee! And I came and never looked back.'

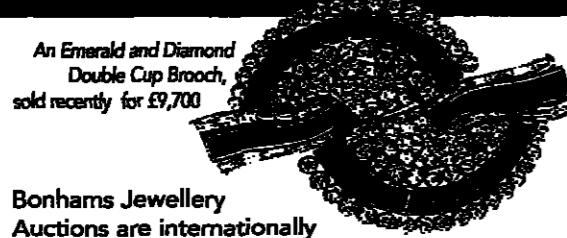
● *Uncle Vanya* opens at the Minerva Studio, Chichester, 01243

Constance Cummings: giggles over Broadway

of 20 when she was plucked from a Broadway show and whisked off to Hollywood, in what sounds like the cliché scenario of far too many Hollywood movies. On Friday understanding the juvenile girl in *Jane Moon*; Saturday afternoon put on to play the role with the other understudies so that the management can see whether she is good enough to send out with the road company.

"It just so happened there wasn't much going on in the theatre at that time, and a roving reporter on the *Sun* heard that this was happening so he went in and saw the play, and wrote a charming little piece saying how nicely we had done it. And the next thing I knew I was being given a film test and taken out to

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■ CONCERT

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major exaggerated the staccato and dotted figures to produce a haughty strutting effect, while the fast movements were an object lesson in finely nuanced phrasing and skilful interweaving.

The French Overture of the D minor was done with a pronounced dynamic scheme (falling, then rising again) that aptly mirrored the harmonic tensions of the movement.

More controversial was the final allegro moderato, played more like an andante with a decidedly mincing gait. I almost hoped that it might be repeated as an encore at something like the usual speed — twice as fast — but it was characteristic of Accademia Bizantina to end with such a provocative gesture. And besides, for an encore they gave a ravishing adagio by Tarquin, with Montanari supplying embellishments worthy of the ancient maestro himself.

BARRY MILLINGTON

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

STRAVINSKY:
SYMPHONY IN THREE MOVEMENTS
reviewed by Michael Oliver



Jukka-Pekka Saraste (Virgin VC 59267-2), Leonard Bernstein (DG 445 538-2), Vladimir Ashkenazy (Decca 436 416-2), even the composer's one-time musical assistant Robert Craft (Music Masters 67078-2) all choose tempi acceptable in themselves but which make other music seem rushed or somnolent. Bernstein and Ashkenazy also produce a rather weighty sound in a symphony that needs leanness and astringency.

Charles Dutoit (Decca 436 474-2), Esa-Pekka Salonen (Sony SK 45796), Neeme Järvi (Chandos CHAN 9238) and Sir Alexander Gibson (Chandos CHAN 6577) are all better in this respect, though all make slight misjudgments of tempo. However, two other readings stand out. Sir Simon Rattle's (EMI CDC 7 49053-2) is vividly played by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and, for many listeners, is ideally coupled (one of the best performances ever of Stravinsky's *Petrushka*). But Sir Colin Davis (Philips 442 583-2, £14.99) gives a performance of unforgettable fire, nervous energy and sheer rhythmic precision that takes one's breath away. It is part of a 2-CD set, with Stravinsky performances by other conductors (all pretty good) at bargain price: outstanding value.

He thought of it as a war symphony, musical ideas being suggested by newsreel footage of Nazi soldiers goose-stepping. Japanese "scorched earth" tactics in China and, as work on the finale proceeded, news of Allied victories.

Stravinsky conducted the symphony's premiere, and he recorded it twice. His 1961 recording (Sony SMZK 46294) is dryly recorded, but still a benchmark, especially in the tricky matter of relating the speeds of adjacent sections.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barley Road, London V10 6BL or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk

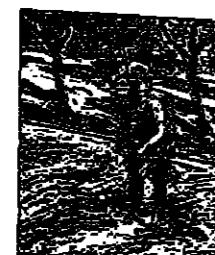
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July 1996



■ VISUAL ART 1

The essential Bacon: Paris pays homage with the first big retrospective since his death



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while in Norwich more Bacon, from the Sainsbury collection, goes on show



■ VISUAL ART 3

Classically abstract: Max Bill and Georges Vantongerloo are displayed in London



■ TOMORROW

Instrumental in the making of a musical: how Jonathan Tunick scored *Martin Guerre*

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THERE is no reason why any kind of art should not look wonderful in Annye Juda's classic white box of a gallery, uncluttered and flooded with light as it is. But the gallery's long association with classic early 20th-century abstraction — the "Non-Objective World" of Malevich and kindred visionaries — guarantees that it will be specially suited to that kind.

Further confirmation, were any needed, is provided by this year's summer exhibition devoted to Max Bill and Georges Vantongerloo and subtitled "A Working Friendship".

The Flemish Vantongerloo, born in 1886, was a generation older than the Swiss Bill, born in 1906. They did not meet until 1933, when they were both involved in the inaugural exhibition of the international group Abstraction-Création in Paris. But they became firm friends and corresponded regularly for the next 30 years. Although their backgrounds were radically different (Vantongerloo was the youngest member of De Stijl; Bill was a product of the Bauhaus), many of their interests were similar. They both favoured a style of geometrical abstraction based in abstract mathematics but visually very approachable, with strong selective use of colour. Both dabbled in sculpture, and both were interested in the practical design applications of their fine art. This show admirably represents all phases of their long and far-ranging stylistic development, from representation to the verge of minimalism.

Annye Juda Fine Art, 23 Dering Street, WI (0171-629 7578), until Sept 14

■ ELYSE LORD'S name probably rings few bells these days, although it is just beginning to do so again. She was a watercolourist and printmaker specialising in her own fanciful brand of orientalism, particularly chinoiserie. Her precise birthdate is not known (it was somewhere around 1889), but she first exhibited watercolours in 1919 and began issuing her exquisite colour etchings in 1923. Very likely she saw the major exhibition of Chinese paintings at the British Museum in 1914, and there is some evidence of close study of the real thing in her work. But she always stoutly maintained that her China was an imaginative vision derived from the translations of Chinese literature by Arthur Waley, and that she was not really interested in authenticity. Certainly she never seems to have had any urge to go China herself. Be that as it may, her areas of vibrant First-Russian-Ballet-Period colour set against neutral greyish or parchment-shaded backgrounds are distinctive and memorable — and her work is clearly coming back into vogue.

Mercury Gallery, 26 Cork Street, WI (0171-734 7800), until July 20

RICHARD CORK

• Francis Bacon is at the Pompidou Centre, Paris (033/44781233) until October 14

sister as youthful as John Edwards seems about to dissolve into the encircling darkness.

The prospect of extinction must have been especially galling to someone with Bacon's inexhaustible appetite for life. But he did not flinch from defining the dissolution of himself and his friends, just as he had exposed the final fragility of Christ in that spectral little *Crucifixion* more than half a century before.

ISABEL CARLISLE

• *Trapping Appearance*: portraits by Francis Bacon and Alberto Giacometti from the Roger and Lisa Sainsbury Collection at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, UEA, Norwich, until September 15

WILLIAM MORRIS



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Victoria and Albert Museum

VISUAL ART: A major Francis Bacon show in Paris; Bacon, Giacometti and the Sainsbury family in Norwich

Evolution of a maverick genius

After major artists die, their reputations often suffer an eclipse. Unwieldy memorial exhibitions are held, burying the kernel of their achievement in an excess of repetitive images. Impatient with the aura of pious pomposity, critics recoil and puncture the veneration with relish.

So the Francis Bacon show at the Pompidou Centre in Paris, the first full-scale retrospective since his death four years ago, is a testing occasion. It could easily have been an indulgent affair, battering the viewer with wearisome urge to overwhelm through sheer bulk. But the selector, David Sylvester, has refused to bombard us. Restricting the exhibits to a well-judged total of 95 images, including a surprising cluster of little-known works on paper, he concentrates on presenting the essential Bacon alone.

The outcome is enormously powerful and moving, a triumphant exhibition which establishes Bacon beyond doubt as the finest British painter of the 20th century. Each canvas is given plenty of space, often hanging isolated on a wall. But the rooms themselves are never so large as to diminish the paintings' impact.

Bacon's pictures draw us into an intensely private realm, a world of disclosure and often painful intimacy. We are confronted, above all, by recurrent images of solitary human figures. Marooned within clinical interiors, they seem at once exposed and trapped by their surroundings. However violently their bodies may twist and writhe, they cannot burst out of the boundaries enclosing them. The wonder is that they retain so much animal energy. Even at their most desperate, when they scream, the convulsive heads possess formidable latent strength.

Why did Bacon take so long to develop such a single-minded vision? The earliest exhibit in the Paris show, a small *Crucifixion* painted when he was only 24, proves that his imaginative priorities would be, Christ is more like ectoplasm than a solid body. White against a nocturnal ground, and clasped by an equally blanched mourner, this attenuated figure seems lost in the void. Only months after it was painted, *Crucifixion* was reproduced by Herbert Read in his 1933 book *Art Now*. But this precocious recognition proved stillborn. Only two other paintings from the 1930s are included in the exhibition, and Bacon did not establish himself as an artist until the late 1940s.

Perhaps his lack of conventional training made him uncertain of his abilities before then. Perhaps, too, he was mortified by the gulf between his lack of success and his ambition to become an outstanding painter.

Just how prodigious his talent really was emerged, with sudden finality, near the end of the Second World War. The triptych he exhibited in 1945 has lost none of its searing power. Taking the crucifixion as his theme once again, he decided this time to concentrate on three disconsolate figures at the base of the cross. In a Renaissance altarpiece, they would bewail the suffering of

He makes most other British painters of the period look timid

the martyr above them. But he is nowhere to be seen. Bacon clearly could not bring himself to acknowledge Christ's existence any more. The protracted brutality of the war years had reinforced his conviction that the world was godless. So the three lurching figures, each stranded on a parched orange panel, can only yell out at the savagery of a universe without meaning. Half human and half reptile, they deplore their plight. And the hybrid in the centre, eyes covered with a cloth, rails against the cruelty of those responsible for blinding him.

Like the 1933 *Crucifixion*, this triptych owed a debt to Picasso's alarmingly deformed bathers of the late 1920s. But Bacon had by then established himself as an artist of harrowing individuality. During the next few years, he elaborated his vision with awesome eloquence and conviction. Although the figures remain isolated, they gradually move towards the contemporary world. The hybrid becomes human, wearing a 20th-century hound's-tooth overcoat and burying his face in flowers. Bacon's fascination with the scream persists, and yet it erupts now in curtained bedrooms redolent of anonymous hotels. The first face based on Velazquez's portrait of Pope Innocent appears, proclaiming Bacon's willingness to pit himself

against the masters of the European tradition. But this Pope is just as agonised as all the other yelling mouths, and he finds himself imprisoned within an ominously modish cage.

By 1949, Bacon is prepared to disclose something of his erotic infatuation with the male body. In a superbly confident and subtle painting he shows a pale, bull-necked nude passing through grey curtains towards blackness beyond. Compared with Hockney's lyrical images of tanned Californian men in the shower 15 years later, this nude seems sinister. He could easily be aggressive, and the white safety-pin painted so surprisingly on the curtains adds to the sense of unease.

At this stage, Bacon stops short of confirming these implications. He prefers to hint at them, just as he suggests in a tall 1950 canvas that the figures glimpsed through a door or window might be caught up in a crime. His reliance on photographic sources helps to account for this feeling for snatched, unexplained events.

By this time, he must have come to regard his lack of art-school education as an advantage. The exhilarating willingness to improvise gives these early paintings a terse sense of danger. Bacon takes extraordinary risks, often leaving ample expanses of canvas bare and disdaining all conventional notions about "finish". He makes most other British painters of the period look timid. Often the brush is dragged raspingly across the picture, like chalk on a blackboard. But Bacon is now just as able to invest other areas of the same painting with sumptuous, seductive brushmarks. His readiness to veer between these two extremes gives his work its unique quicksilver tension, and helps to explain why this retrospective is so enthralling.

On occasions, he paid the price for his audacity. Bacon's aversion to "finish" can look scrappy, while his innate sense of theatre sometimes looks melodramatic. As the 1960s proceed, though, he gains a greater breadth and assurance. His fascination with the triptych format grows, leading him towards a heightened grandeur. However, anguished his figures may become, their suffering is offset by a vivacity even more irrepressible than before.

When I first met Bacon in 1971, just before his retrospective at the Grand Palais, he told me that "after the Paris show, I'm going to deliberately set about painting an



The central panel of Bacon's *Triptych, May-June 1973*: "the elegiac emotion is unmistakable"

autobiography". He never fulfilled this ambition, but the gruesome death of his partner, George Dyer, on the eve of the Grand Palais exhibition, did trigger a profoundly impressive sequence of grieving triptychs. The autobiographical impulse takes on a confessional character in these great lamentations. Dyer is seen, successively, as a clothed and silhouetted figure pushing a key in a door-lock, naked on a chair in front of a black opening, and slumped in the hotel bathroom where he died. Bacon removes the sumptuous surroundings from any narrow fidelity to recognisable

places, but Dyer's face remains unmistakable and so does the elegiac emotion behind the paintings.

An awareness of mortality had always been evident in Bacon's work, even when his figures were at their most vital. At this juncture, however, the presence of death is inescapable. After the Dyer threnodies end, the bodies in Bacon's work gradually shed their solidity. Signs of tiredness are detectable in his late canvases, yet I also believe that the ageing artist was searching for a way to convey a new obsession: corporeal disintegration. Even a

sister as youthful as John Edwards seems about to dissolve into the encircling darkness.

The prospect of extinction must have been especially galling to someone with Bacon's inexhaustible appetite for life. But he did not flinch from defining the dissolution of himself and his friends, just as he had exposed the final fragility of Christ in that spectral little *Crucifixion* more than half a century before.

RICHARD CORK

• Francis Bacon is at the Pompidou Centre, Paris (033/44781233) until October 14

A vision of the truth behind the mask

Timed to coincide with the Francis Bacon exhibition currently in Paris is *Trapping Appearance* at the Norwich Sainsbury Centre. It brings together works, mainly portraits, by Bacon and Alberto Giacometti from the Roger and Lisa Sainsbury collection and displays the artists in counterpoint. *Walking down the aisle* of display screens in one direction, all that is visible is Bacon, in the other, all Giacometti.

The immense ceiling height in Norman Foster's building gives a feeling of space to the Sainsbury Centre's exhibition

area, but no monumentality. The screens create domestic-scale settings that have the effect of softening the rawness of the Bacons and, seeing them up close, heightening the quiet intensity of Giacometti. It is a deft juxtaposition which serves to point up the powerfully sculptural quality of Bacon's art.

Both these great postwar artists were friends of the Sainsburys, who introduced them to each other, and were collected by them in the 1950s and early 1960s. The three portraits of Lisa by Bacon are survivors of two years of sitting for him "as an act of

friendship" which produced eight canvases, five of which Bacon destroyed. The portrait of Robert Sainsbury was a commission from Lisa in 1955.

In no sense is this a show survey. Taken as a whole the works are segments of two artistic careers, segments that coincidentally catch the inspirational power of the painter Isabel Rawsthorne in a bronze portrait head by Giacometti and a triptych of heads by Bacon — perhaps the most moving works in the show.

Bacon was famously reluctant to paint portraits, fearing complaints from his sitters: achieving a good likeness was not his aim. People were fonder in his search for emotional states of being, generally the extremities of emotions released in sex or death. Trapping appearances was

characterises the entire Sainsbury collection across its huge global range.

Robert and Lisa Sainsbury insist that they never originally set out to form a collection. "I have never collected, I may be a passionate acquirer, but all by accident," Robert Sainsbury says. The acquiring started in the early 1930s when Robert bought his first piece, the bronze *Head of an Infant* by Epstein. In about 1935 he saw the African Fang mask in Paris and bought that too.

Epstein and other artists also collected primitive, mainly African, art before the Second World War and through their own work gave it a 20th-century context. It was, however, extraordinary at that time to see a Fang head as art, on a par with Western art, and to mix the two cultures together. "We have always been considered quite mad in terms of our collecting," says Lisa. Just as they were considered mad to sit for the unfaltering Bacon, or to commission a building from the then almost unknown Norman Foster to house their collection at the University of East Anglia in 1978. The Sainsbury Centre was Norman Foster's first public commission and, although there was no brief, the object was to house the collection (which has grown to 1,200 objects) and the School of Art History under one roof. Architects and clients virtually designed the building together. The result was a glass and aluminium box that was entirely unconventional in having very few enclosed spaces but acted as a tent for the collection, a library, teaching areas, offices and a restaurant.

When it came to displaying the collection, Robert Sainsbury explains that "Norman and his staff had very definite rules: no wall cases, all objects should be able to be walked around and the tops of the cases should all be the same height. I wanted chairs and tables in the living area to encourage people to come in and sit down."

Today, walking through the honeycomb-like spaces that group the collection you encounter surrealist artist Leonora Carrington opposite a Zairean dance mask sewn with cowrie shells and beads, or a 1909 drawing by Picasso of a seated nude next to a roughly contemporary housepost figure from New Guinea. "I would love to have done a book of objects from different civilisations comparing objects from different dates and different parts of the world," says Robert. The Sainsburys' belief in the importance of visual cross-culturalism was behind their



Bacon's Sketch for a portrait of Lisa, 1955

not a primary concern for either artist: both were seeking an emotional or spiritual reality behind the facade. It is this appeal to deeper instincts, present in the work of Bacon and Giacometti, that

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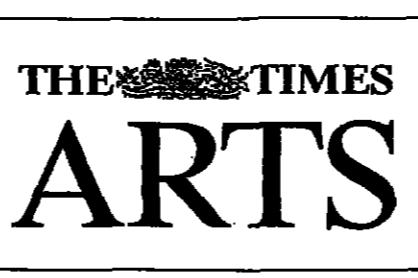
CHOICE 1

Rambert Dance Company brings a 70th birthday season to London
VENUE: From tonight at the Coliseum



CHOICE 2

Sir Charles Mackerras conducts Welsh National Opera
VENUE: This week in Llandudno



THEATRE 1

Urban muddle, Dublin style: a fine young Irish playwright shows his mettle at the Bush



THEATRE 2
Battersea mounts a three-week festival in honour of the American writer Sam Shepard

LONDON
BIRDS: William Wharton's award-winning novel about a boy's obsession with flight adapted by Naomi Wallace, directed by Fenton Wright. Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, W6 01981-741 2311. Preview begins tonight, 8pm. Opens July 15, 7pm. August 17.

FALSTAFF: Palace Opera presents Verdi's last — and perhaps greatest — opera in an English translation by Julian Budden. The tangled web of Italian comic opera are developed with the complexities of Elizabethan comedy and Verdi's inventive music. Hallé Opera, Peacock Theatre, WC1 0171-602 9550. Tues-Sat 7.30pm, mat 8pm. £20-£30.

RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY

Britain's oldest established dance company celebrates its 70th anniversary with a programme at the Coliseum. 10pm Sat. August 2. *Stabat Mater* and *Meeting Point* (tonight, Fri and Sat). *Quicksilver* (Bad Eyes and Rooster) (tomorrow and Thurs), with a special performance of *Stabat Mater*. Coliseum, 25 St. Martin's Lane, WC2 0171-632 8200. Tonight-Sat, 8pm. mat Sat 2.30pm. £20.

ELSEWHERE
EXETER: Northern Theatre Company presents an outdoor production of *As*

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Moxey

YOUTH LIFE: John Durkin directs Verdi's comedy of love among the brambles in the romantic *La Traviata* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 0171-923 4930. Tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until Aug 3.

LEEDS: The majestic voice of Stephen Varcoe, bass, is a welcome addition to the Royal Opera House's *La Traviata* (tonight, Fri and Sat). *Quicksilver* (Bad Eyes and Rooster) (tomorrow and Thurs), with a special performance of *Stabat Mater*. Coliseum, 25 St. Martin's Lane, WC2 0171-632 8200. Tonight-Sat, 8pm. mat Sat 2.30pm. £20.

LIVERPOOL: The Summer Pops (tonight) gathers momentum with Carl Davis conducting the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in an evening of breezy music by Stephen Varcoe. Highlights include the Moonlight Sonata and Timothy Horton playing the Emperor Piano Concerto. Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3789). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE ASPERN PAPERS: Michael Redgrave's slightly old-fashioned version of the Henry James tale of messy seduction. With Hannah Gordon, Daniel J. Travanti, Morris Lister, Michael Gambon, and others. WC2 0171-369 1230. Mon-Fri, 8pm. Sat, 8pm. Sun 7.30pm. Mat 3pm. £25.

BY JEEVES: Delightful musical creation by Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on the *Woolsey Woos*. First previewed 20 years ago, now endearingly updated. Duke of York's Theatre, W1 0171-828 5122. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Mat 8pm. Wed and Sun 3pm. £20.

COROLANIUS: Steven Berkoff's much-travelled production with himself as a snarling, beaking lassie! *Mermaid*, Pudding Court, EC4 0171-235 2211. Tues-Sat 7.30pm. Mat 8pm. Until July 20.

DUCK HUNTING: A farcical comedy of a man whose only concerns are vodka, women and his longing to shoot a duck. Said to be Chekhovian in tone. *Man-in-the-Moon*, 352 Kings Road, SW3 0171-351 2670. Tues-Sun, 7.30pm.

JOVANNI'S ROOM: Stage version of James Baldwin's remarkable literary odyssey from a boy who fell in love in Paris and the teens 1950s to now. Adaptation includes an original jazz score. With Bette Bourne. Drury Lane, Charing Cross, WC1 0171-637 6377. Tues-Sun, 7.30pm. Mat 8pm.

MISSING: IMPOSSIBLE (PG): Rousing set-pieces dwarf the stars, even Tom Cruise's special agent, in the original *Mission: Impossible* series. With Jon Voight, Emmanuel Béart. Director, Brian De Palma. *Basilique* 0171-638 8891. Clapham Picture House, 0171-498 2000. Tues-Sat 7.30pm. Mat 8pm. *Chelsea* 0171-352 5096. Tottenham Court Road 0171-636 6148. *Tricycle* 0171-434 0031. *Notting Hill Cinema* 0171-727 6705. *Marble Arch* 0171-636 1666. *Marble Arch* 0171-635 14511. *Studios College* 0171-437 91408. *Plaza* 0171-437 1234. *Ritz* 0171-737 2121. *Screen Doctor* 0171-933 2722. *Screen Doctor* 0171-933 2722. *Whitley's* 0171-732 3322. *Virgin Putney Road* 0171-370 2306. *Ritz* 0171-254 6677.

WILD BILL: Incidents galore, but no momentum in a perfunctory Western about Wild Bill Hickok. With Jeff Bridges, Director, Walter Hill. NFT 0171-928 2222.

NEW RELEASES

DEAD MAN (18): A stark existential Western from Jim Jarmusch with Johnny Depp as an innocent at large in the American West. With Dennis Hopper, Dennis Hopper, and others. *Chelsea* 0171-351 3722. *Gate* 0171-727 2121.

THE GODFATHER: Part one of Francis Ford Coppola's 1972 classic. With Marlon Brando and Al Pacino. *Reino* 0171-637 8422.

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To £55,000

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CHAMBERS

Avoid being Critical
There are two difficult questions that interviewers are often asked. One is why they want to join the organisation which is interviewing them. The other is why they want to leave their present organisation.

The first is difficult because interviewers do not know why they want to join any one organisation in particular. This is especially true when they are attending interviews with dozens of different organisations, any of which ask them that question. Potential interviewers will usually understand the candidates' dilemma, and allow for a touch of tactfulness.

The other question is more dangerous, for the opportunity cost is great. Interviewers will ask why they want to leave their present organisation, and they are usually very willing to explain. They may not feel it is right to volunteer this information, but if the interviewers ask, and accept, the truth, they have had to disclose the fact that the post in the office of the impossible erratic behaviour of your boss.

But beware: This question is a trap. If you answer it truthfully, your chances are likely to be seriously prejudiced. Few things make employers more wary than candidates who are critical. There is a natural tendency among employers to assume that if you criticise one of your colleagues or your superiors, then you are likely to do the same about them. You have been invited to do just this, but you are expected, politely, to refrain.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY & BANKING

Sonya Rayner, Bridget Burdon

Litigation: London

Consumer Credit: South East

Solicitor with 2-3 years' ppe in general commercial litigation to join international services company and manage a broad range of High Court litigation including breach of contract and banking related matters.

Commercial Lawyer: South East

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Commercial Lawyer: Midlands

Excellent opportunity for ambitious young commercial lawyer to join dynamic legal dept of successful fast moving consumer goods company. Must have sound business sense and enjoy travel. Good career prospects.

Trade Finance: Vienna

Exciting opportunity for English lawyer with 2-4 years' ppe to join dynamic legal dept of European bank. Knowledge of German useful, but not essential.

Commercial: City

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Partnership Positions

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Private Client: Holborn

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Company/Commercial: Central London

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COMMERCIAL LAWYER

Epsom, Surrey

2-5 years qualified

FINA Plc is the UK subsidiary of PetroFINA, the international group active in both upstream and downstream (refining and marketing) oil and gas, chemicals and joint ventures and other contractual work.

An opportunity has arisen within the legal department for a commercial lawyer with between 2 and 5 years experience to handle a broad range of work, which includes upstream and downstream oil and gas, chemicals, joint ventures and other contractual work. Individual legal advisers take on a great deal of responsibility in the handling of high profile projects.

The long-term prospects for this role are

Have holiday insurance, will sue

The recent revolts by air passengers who have refused to travel on planes they regard as unsafe have highlighted how important the issue of health and safety has become for the tourism industry. Developments in criminal law over recent years mean that UK tour operators may find themselves criminally liable for what might go wrong while holidaymakers are in their care. From unsafe hotels to threats to health, tour operators could be held accountable and the penalties are serious. If an accident results in death then charges of corporate manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter could follow. The consequence could even be a jail sentence.

Peter Stewart is a partner of Field Fisher Waterhouse, one of the recognised leaders in travel law. "The consequences for tour operators and their employees could be serious," he says. "It is inevitable that there will be serious accidents involving British tourists as the industry continues to grow. We have recently spent a lot of time advising clients on precautions they must take."

The problem is not necessarily that the tour companies have been

Edward Fennell on the increase in criminal cases in the travel industry

negligent but that they have been targeted as having to accept responsibility for the failings of others.

Cynthia Barbor, a travel specialist with Nicholson Graham Jones, says: "There is a limit to which tour operators should be held responsible. Some things are beyond their control, especially risk of illness and disease. The problem is that people want increasingly adventurous and exotic holidays but also want them to be totally safe." Apart from criminal liability, however, the European directive on package holidays, implemented in the UK recently, means that holidaymakers are now also in a stronger position to demand compensation if their holidays disappoint.

Few leading law firms are active in the travel and tour business. Alongside the firms already men-

tioned there stand Rowe & Maw, some regional firms and a few top ten firms, such as Herbert Smith and Norton Rose, whose interests are linked to the aviation business.

Sue Walker, of the aviation litigation team at Norton Rose, says the travel field involves specialist work and is difficult for new firms to break into.

The trend seems to be that the travel specialists are extending their reach into mainstream work. For example, the growing levels of compensation paid to dissatisfied customers has forced the insurance companies to look much more carefully at the travel industry. And rather than using their usual insurance lawyers they are turning instead to the travel specialists because they understand the issues.

The other area of significant growth is in aviation, where firms such as Rowe & Maw now have dedicated teams who advise airports on landing-slot allocation schedules. Michael Nott, who now heads Rowe & Maw's aviation group, says: "The world's leading airports are highly congested. The number of slots you have is a key determinant of profitability. It is not surprising that slot allocation has become an important issue."



Stacking hour over New York: law firms are cashing in on rows about landing-slot allocations

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, will have been pleased with the press reception last week for his legal aid White Paper. Broadly, it was given a warm welcome. He probably also thought he could ignore the fact that the legal profession is seriously concerned — for itself and its clients.

But it will be more difficult for Lord Mackay to dismiss the sharply critical reaction of the National Consumer Council (NCC) and of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (Nacab).

David Hatch, the NCC chairman, says that the council had supported many of Lord Mackay's legal aid reform proposals. "However," he adds, "we had no idea that a Green Paper, *Taming the Need*, would evolve into a White Paper targeting the needy."

Nacab's reaction should give pause to the Lord Chancellor and to the leader writers who greeted the White Paper as a recipe for elimination of too much wasteful and foolish litigation at the taxpayer's expense. CABs — which advise millions of people a year — stand to benefit greatly from their proposed inclusion as providers of legal aid. This makes Nacab's critical reaction to the White Paper the more noteworthy and weighty.

Ann Abraham, Nacab's chief executive, says: "The White Paper represents a sad retreat from the founding principle of legal aid, that no one should be denied access to

More peace for the wicked

The success rate of legally aided civil actions is 92 per cent. Why is Lord Mackay's White Paper intent on changing things, asks Michael Zander

justice through being unable to pay. The price of controlling legal aid will be paid by the many thousands of people of modest means who find that justice is a luxury they cannot afford.

"We have regular reports of disabled clients living on benefits who are forced to drop strong cases because they cannot afford the substantial contributions that they would have to pay. These are not people taking weak or trivial cases at the taxpayer's expense; they are people who need legal help to defend themselves against domestic violence or the threat of losing their homes. They are people injured or made ill through their work or the negligence of employers."

She says the proposals conflict with the fundamental CAB principles of providing a free service and being open to all, "which may prevent the CAB service being able to take up the role envisaged for it in the new legal aid scheme". If the CABs decide not to participate, Lord Mackay's reforms will be in a spot of difficulty: making the

bureau part of the system of providers is central.

At present, legally aided persons who lose a case are protected by not having to pay to the successful opponent more than they have to pay by way of contribution towards their own costs. But under the new scheme, however poor they are, they will face the possibility of having to pay the full costs of the case to the winning opponent. The debt to the fund will become a second mortgage on their home, a powerful discouragement to ordinary people against taking proceedings.

We know from research recently released by the Legal Aid Board that even the relatively modest level of present-day contributions influences many not to accept an offer of legal aid. If a legally aided person is to be at risk of having, over a period of time, to pay all his or her opponent's costs, this will occur more often. Presumably, that is what Lord Mackay intends.

Even if they win, legally aided litigants will have to pay back any costs of their own

choose his cases. Naturally, he will tend to choose the most straightforward cases.

The White Paper says that in criminal cases the lawyer's pay will be fixed by reference to the number of duty sessions he undertakes, not to the number or length of cases. It may be that therefore "solicitors would have no incentive to draw out cases unnecessarily". But by the same token, the inevitable result will be skimpier preparation of cases and more pressure on clients to plead guilty. It would seem that the Lord Chancellor has turned a blind eye to such disagreeable concerns in order to be able to tell the Treasury that he has found a way to put a cap on legal aid expenditure.

The White Paper talks glibly of monitoring of standards by the Legal Aid Board. But much of this is just public relations talk. How much real monitoring of the work of thousands of providers of legal services can the Board hope to undertake?

By repeatedly criticising, on cheap and specious grounds, the legal aid scheme, Lord Mackay has done more to undermine its public reputation than any of the egregious recent cases that have fuelled public concern. This was unworthy of him and of his office. But by the time that the public comes to realise that it has been sold a package that seriously reduces access to justice for millions of ordinary citizens, Lord Mackay will be enjoying retirement.

• The author is Professor of Law at the London School of Economics.

Regional French firm opens in London

London has added its first French regional law firm to a growing collection of foreign firms. The two-hour train trip from Lille to Waterloo has made it easier for Triple & Associates to open an office in the capital.

Based in France's fourth largest city, the firm has a partner who is English by origin, Philip Jenkinson. He has become one of the first Euro-commuters, with 90 return trips under his belt. "Eurostar," he says, "has made it possible for me to run the London office and see more of my family. I can drop my son off at school in Lille and be at my desk by 9.30."

Mr Jenkinson has lived in France for ten years and is a qualified French *avocat*. He is convinced that there is a slot for regional French lawyers in Britain — clients with French-related business pay less and do not have to deal with a chain of lawyers. In a recent case he says he watched with some amusement as a British regional firm contacted a London firm, which contacted its Paris office, which contacted a regional French firm. "Even sending a letter was costing a lot of money."

Getting the office recognised in Britain will be more difficult, although Mr Jenkinson quickly found one way of gaining entry to the club. He registered the office on the DX, the document-exchange system. "The first question British lawyers ask you is whether you are on the DX," he says.

Having realised its value, he persuaded the DX to give him a registration number in the low hundreds rather than the high thousands. He explains: "We thought that it would help to reassure people that we were established lawyers."

As a French *avocat*, Mr Jenkinson also has a secret weapon — his French court robes, complete with ermine trim. But while he has brought the robes to Britain, he has not yet had the nerve to deploy them in court. "I took them to a hearing at Staines Magistrates' Court." But, Mr Jenkinson says, he lost the nerve to wear them.

JOSEPHINE CARR
• The author is editor of European Counsel Direct.

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This medium-sized City firm needs a 2-4 year qualified lawyer to undertake a mix of litigious and non-litigious matters. Ref: 6080L

► Property Litigation

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A 6 month - 2 year qualified landlord and tenant specialist is required by this well known City practice. Ref: 11180L

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► Property Litigation

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Ref: 30928

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Ref: 23496

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At a time when most litigation vacancies are for narrow specialists in insurance, this is an opportunity for a high-calibre litigator to undertake varied commercial work of an exceptional quality.

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To discuss these opportunities in total confidence please contact Philip Boynton LLM (Harvard). Alternatively, send your CV to him at the address below.

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Informal enquiries are welcomed by Ruth Soetendorp, Head of the Department of Law, on (01202) 595212.

Further details and application forms are available from the Personnel Department, Studland House, 12 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 4NA.

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A youngish Corporate/Commercial solicitor (age 30-40) is sought by a small profitable commercial firm which is proud of its relaxed, team-oriented culture and plans never to grow so much that this culture is lost. The successful candidate will be a proven business geter and will be able to bring a modest following (c£100k) which will support the work already done by the firm and that to be generated by cross-referrals to existing clients. Ref: 1902. Contact: Paul Rummel at the London office.

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If you are an experienced insurance/reinsurance litigation solicitor working at a major City firm or a niche insurance practice this proposition might interest you. A medium-sized firm seeks to further strengthen its established specialist team by hiring a trusted and conscientious solicitor with good skills and contacts and some 'following'. The firm will give you maximum support and resources to allow you to fulfil your potential and earn a short-term partnership. Ref: 1959. Contact: Peter Gosden at the London office.

EMPLOYMENT
Superb employment opportunity. If you have between 1 and 3 years' PQE and feel that it is time for a move in order to increase your career prospects, this successful medium-sized City firm is looking to recruit you into the employment team. You will have strong academic credentials, enjoy challenges and be happy to take responsibility. The work will consist of both contentious and non-contentious matters with an emphasis on the latter. Contact: Jane Glassberg at the London office.

CITY
Highly successful medium sized firm with a pre-eminent reputation for its property law expertise seeks a commercial property lawyer with 1-4 years' PQE with personality and flair. You will handle the full spectrum of the highest quality work for a wide range of clients including property companies, banks, developers, retailers and landlords and will enjoy a meritorious with early partnership prospects. Ref: 1535. Contact: Pandora Close at the London office.

LONDON
A senior lawyer (5+ years' PQE) is sought by a prestigious European bank for a challenging, stimulating and varied role. For this position a commercial and responsive approach is as important as experience which should include 2 or more of the following: capital markets, syndicated loans, trade finance, debt issues, project finance and equities. Ref: 1964. Contact: Paul Rummel at the London office.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
A highly regarded medium-sized practice, our client is a genuine full service law firm which does, however, have a particular name for certain specialist areas. One of these is media/entertainment/soft IP in which continuing success requires the recruitment of a 2-3 year qualified IP litigation solicitor. The client base is superb and you would be hard pushed to find higher quality colleagues and mentors at any other firm. Ref: 1860. Contact: Peter Gosden at the London office.

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL/BANKING - RUSSIAN SPEAKING
London City office of large multi-national partnership is looking for Russian speaking business lawyers in a range of disciplines including corporate, commercial and banking. The successful candidate will have between 2 and 5 years' PQE and have gained experience with a reputable City firm. Dynamic, ambitious, ideally multilingual commercial candidates are sought, ideally, you should be UK or US qualified but Commonwealth lawyers will be considered. Contact: Jane Glassberg at the London office.

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL, BRISTOL

About us

- An important part of our national strategy is to gain a substantial market share in Bristol and the South West. As evidence of this we have in the last 2 years recruited into our Bristol office several high quality lawyers including 3 partners;
- A central element of this strategy is the ongoing development of a substantial corporate and commercial practice. This process has already resulted in the office being recognised for its work in several key practice areas.
- As the UK's only truly national law firm we offer our clients a unique type and quality of service and are committed nationwide to providing legal advice of the highest calibre, reflected by the quality of the lawyers we seek to recruit.

Our requirements

- A corporate lawyer with about 5 years' post qualification experience in a City or major provincial firm, with the dynamism, practice development skills and technical expertise to warrant promotion to partnership within 12 months and spearhead our corporate practice in Bristol.
- An assistant with up to 3 years' post qualification experience to add strength and depth to our commercial team with a good academic background and an interest in developing a specialisation complementary to our existing commercial practice.

In both cases we are looking for individuals who are energetic, proactive and personable, with an appetite for success, the ability to integrate into a supportive, close knit team and the ambition to build a long term career with us.

For further information in complete confidence please contact: Rachel Williams, our Personnel Manager, on 0117 929 9555 or write to her at Eversheds, 11/12 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4NT.

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Small well-established City practice need solicitor to cover for partner going on maternity leave. The candidate would be to start in a couple of weeks for about 3 months and would require a solicitor with at least 4-5 years' pge to take over a mixture of high quality work, predominantly commercial but with a small amount of residential property. Ref: 28644

OIL/COMMERCIAL

International oil company seeks a solicitor/barrister, with a minimum of 3 years' experience in the industry for a 2-3 month contract. Position will be based in central London and will chiefly involve the drafting and negotiation of contracts. Immediate start. Ref: 28520

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Two junior commercial property solicitors sought by this City firm to assist with a due diligence exercise. Contract is to start as soon as possible and will be for a month. Candidates may be required to work long hours. Ref: 28598

BANKING

2-5 year qualified solicitor/barrister with general banking and/or corporate finance experience required to join in-house legal team of merchant bank. Would be involved in a broad range of work including, global markets, corporate finance, banking, emerging markets, and asset management. Start as soon as possible for 4 months. Ref: 28633

JUNIOR COMMERCIAL

A leading US technology company are looking for a 1-5 year qualified commercial lawyer to join their European office. Experience of drafting and negotiating commercial contracts, ability to speak French and German, as well as a commercial background would be required for this 1 year contract. Ref: 28610

CORPORATE

Top City firm urgently need a team of solicitors to assist with heavy workload. Candidates must have excellent academics with minimum 1 years pge and maximum 6 years pge from similar background, for this 6 month plus contract. Work will be mainstream corporate, both domestic and international. Immediate start. Ref: 28508

COMMERCIAL

5-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister with heavyweight in-house commercial experience, including IP/IT contracts, required to assist newly established arm of Insurance Company. Contract would be for about 3 months and candidates must be able to work on a completely unsupervised basis. Ref: 28634

DEFENDANT PERSONAL INJURY

National firm are seeking a highly experienced solicitor for their Midlands based office. Candidates must have a strong background in defendant insurance work. The position is to start as soon as possible until August. Ref: 28264

NON-FEE-EARNING ROLE

Corporate lawyer sought by this City firm. Candidates will be involved in marketing, training, precedent drafting. Contract will be for a 3 month period which may be extended. Ref: 28198

For further information please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hopkins on 0171-405 6062 (01-1350 0682 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to us as Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

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CYCLING

Cracks in Berzin's armour exposed by boldness of Riis

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE IN SESTRIERE

HEAVY overnight snow forced the cancellation of the ninth stage of the Tour de France yesterday and heightened the air of unreality created by the demise of Miguel Indurain over the weekend. This Tour is ricocheting from the unbelievable to the bizarre. It also has the makings of an epic, not least because of the variety of potential champions.

The Tour has had to cope with strikes and reroutings in the past, but no one could recall a stage being arbitrarily cut just minutes before its start. Veterans such as Raymond Poulidor and Bernard Hinault shook their grizzled heads in disbelief at the softness of the modern rider, but the organisers were wise not to push their luck any further after Alex Zulle and Johan Bruyneel had survived hair-

raising crashes in similar conditions on that unforgettable stage to Les Arcs on Saturday.

Most of the riders in the peloton could not believe their good fortune. Having signed on in Val d'Isere, they were driven in warm cars over two of the most feared climbs on the route and deposited across the Italian border into lush green valleys and something approaching sunshine.

However, any suggestion that the shortened stage, a 25-mile charge up to Sestriere, would simply confirm the talent of Evgeni Berzin was misplaced. A spirit of adventure is afoot, epitomised by the balding figure of Bjarne Riis, from Denmark, who became the fifth wearer of the yellow jersey in the first nine days of the Tour, after Zulle, Moncassin, Heulot and Berzin.

At the age of 32, Riis is an old-timer. Like Tony Rominger, 35, he is desperate to crown his career with one last fulfilling victory. Unlike the Swiss rider, he is new to these heights; this is his first year as a team leader, but no less a judge than Indurain considered Riis a more dangerous rival than the calculating and polished Rominger.

The full impact of the compliment could easily be felt over the next 12 days. Riis is a man more than adequate climber, a good time-trialist and utterly fearless. He would have revelled in the chance to attack in the sleet and snow yesterday and did not disappoint his surprisingly large band of Danish supporters when the racing did begin.

Not even the banners proclaiming "Forza Berzin" on the Italian side of the Alps could

raise Berzin at the start, only the pugnacious Danie would have considered the possibility of cutting the deficit. However, his early attack forced the Russian into leading a lone counter-attack up the final ascent and exposed the weakness of Berzin's Geiss team. When Luc Leblanc also broke away near the summit, Berzin was dropped, finishing one minute and 23 seconds behind Riis and slipping to fourth place overall.

At the age of 32, Riis is an old-timer.



Riis is ecstatic after winning the ninth stage of the Tour in Sestriere yesterday

lift Berzin in his adopted home. The Italians find something reassuringly familiar in Berzin's rebellious nature, but the ease with which Riis blew him away yesterday does not augur well for his prospects as

the field emerges from the field to the climbs. "I was looking forward to that stage because I was feeling that good and I felt today. Tomorrow, thankfully for everyone, is a day of rest.

Riis confirmed his disappointment at missing out on

Brewster completes milestone voyage

SAMANTHA BREWSTER'S solo round-the-world sailing voyage finally came to an end yesterday after her 6ft cutter, *Health Insured*, edged its way up the western Solent in the centre of a flotilla of BT Global Challenge yachts (Edward Gorman writes). As she passed Hamble Point, a gun fired by Chay Blyth marked the end of a passage that makes her the first woman to circumnavigate the globe in a westerly direction, albeit with one stop in Brazil for repairs. She has been away for a total of 253 days and covered 28,000 miles.

Despite the trials and tribulations she and her boat looked in good condition, although, like all long-distance solo sailors, Brewster had mixed feelings about returning. "There is part of me that wants to go back out again because my little world is coming to an end," she said. "I'll do more solo sailing but never this long and not this hard."

Keighley to cash in

RUGBY LEAGUE: Keighley Cougars are under the new ownership of Carl Metcalfe, a millionaire businessman, who will today announce an immediate £350,000 investment, with more money promised, as the first division club attempts to win a place in the Stobies Super League. □ Jeff Grayson has resigned as coach of the first division club, Bafay Bulldogs. John Monis and Graham Lowe, two former Wigan coaches, have been linked with the coaching position at Bradford Bulls being vacated by Brian Smith.

Walker ready to ride

MOTOR CYCLING: Chris Walker, from Nottingham, has been called up by the French Elf 500 ROC team to ride in the British Grand Prix, the ninth round of the world 500cc championship, at Donington Park next Sunday. Walker, who has been riding for Ducati in the British Super Bike Championships, takes over the machine for the 30-lap, 75-mile race at the Leicestershire circuit from Adrian Bossard, the Swiss rider, who is officially "being rested".

Alfredsson goes top

GOLF: Helen Alfredsson has overtaken Laura Davies, of Great Britain, at the top of the Ford Order of Merit after her victory in the Hennessy Cup in Cologne on Sunday. The Swedish player's winnings total £71,250 from two tournaments this year. Davies is second with £63,750. Marie-Laure de Lorenz, from France, remains at the top of the standings for automatic selection to the Europe side to meet the United States in the Solheim Cup at St Pierre in September.

NINTH STAGE: Val d'Isere to Sestriere 40km: 1, B. Riis (Den) 2, C. Berzin (Sp) 3, L. Leblanc (Fr) 4, S. Sestriere (Ita) 5, R. Rominger (Swi) 6, G. Moncassin (Fra) 7, J. B. Zulle (Bel) 8, M. Bruyneel (Bel) 9, G. Karmi (Ita) 10, G. Tomasi (Ita) 11, P. Llorente (Sp) 12, A. Riis (Den) 13, G. Ghezzi (Ita) 14, L. Poppel (It) 15, R. Rominger (Swi) 16, J. B. Zulle (Bel) 17, Y. Beppu (Jpn) 18, M. Fernandez (Spa) 19, G. Moncassin (Fra) 20, L. Dalmat (Fra) 21, G. Tomasi (Ita) 22, G. Ghezzi (Ita) 23, M. Pesci (Ita) 24, B. Riis (Den) 25, U. Bozkurt (Tur) 26, G. Tomasi (Ita) 27, G. Moncassin (Fra) 28, A. Riis (Den) 29, G. Ghezzi (Ita) 30, L. Poppel (It) 31, R. Rominger (Swi) 32, J. B. Zulle (Bel) 33, Y. Beppu (Jpn) 34, M. Fernandez (Spa) 35, G. Tomasi (Ita) 36, G. Moncassi (Fra) 37, L. Dalmat (Fra) 38, G. Tomasi (Ita) 39, G. Ghezzi (Ita) 40, B. Riis (Den) 41, A. Riis (Den) 42, G. Moncassi (Fra) 43, G. Tomasi (Ita) 44, G. Ghezzi (Ita) 45, L. Dalmat (Fra) 46, G. Tomasi (Ita) 47, G. 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CRICKET: FLAT-TRACK BULLY FAILS TO REDISCOVER FORM ON FEATHER-BED PITCH AT TRENT BRIDGE

Hick's bad dream takes turn for worse

*Some say that Hick's a fine batter
And some say, a pain in the neck;
To others, he's just a jazz-hatted
Who will end up a gibbering wreck;
Friends I know in high places
Say he's scared of anything quick;
These things tend to go through phases.
Oh tell me the truth about Hick.
(With apologies to W. H. Auden)*

IT'S that man again, and aren't we all surprised? The case history of Graeme Hick, cricketer, is the most puzzling of our times and will never be resolved to everybody's satisfaction. He is 30 now, not a young chap any more, and nobody truly knows him. More important, he appears not to know himself.

This was the day of days for Hick to rediscover his form. He came in with the scoreboard showing 360 for two. The pitch was flat. The bowlers had endured a lot, and expected to endure a lot more. Two of the previous batsmen had made hundreds. He had all day to bat, no questions asked. So what did he do? He squirmed through two unpleasant hours for a score he could have got with five good hits.

When England's purpose was surely to plunder runs at a decent pace he dawdled, robbing of his strokes. After getting off the mark with a handsome boundary he went scoreless for almost an hour.

Surrey confirmed as championship force

By RUPERT COX

THE OVAL (final day of four): Surrey (24pts) beat Middlesex (5) by seven wickets

IT MAY yet prove a watershed victory in the fortunes of Surrey. It is nine years and 14 matches since they last managed to beat their London neighbours and, of course, almost 25 years since they captured the last of their county championships in 1971.

This was a commendable performance by Surrey. Ninety-eight overs were lost to the weather, three key players were absent on England duty, and they achieved the victory despite making ridiculous contributions to the Middlesex cause by way of extras. It was a profligate Surrey can ill-afford in matches to come.

Regardless of the statistics, the win thrusts Surrey right into the thick of the championship race and, in their favour, they have already negotiated fixtures against many of the teams at the top of the table.



Test match commentary

Eventually, aiming a stroke to leg, he popped up a steaming catch to mid-on and wandered off, still not sure of what he had been doing out there. As a result he may pay for his failure, his fourth in as many innings, with his place in the side.

It is unlikely, because Michael Atherton wants him bedded down at No 5 and because it makes no sense to tamper with the batting order unless it is absolutely necessary. It would be nice to report that Hick "deserves" to bat there but one is reluctant to claim as much. He has contributed only 35 runs to this series and that is simply not good enough, not for a key batsman who had apparently established himself in Test cricket.

Since making a well-regarded hundred in the first Test against South Africa last Nov-

ember, Hick has passed fifty once in nine completed innings. Against India he has played like a man in a dream, and his messy slip fielding has reinforced the impression of a player who is not mentally attuned to events taking place around him. He had better shake himself out of this torpor because the Pakistanis England meet later this month are sharp cricketers and there will be no place for dreamers.

Hick was rested by Worcestershire from a championship match last week as a favour to England, and this is how he repaid them. Atherton, who was also rested, made 160 — though he was lucky to make even the first of them. But the captain has reserves of spirit that Hick has never shared. After all this time, he is not going to change.

He has been dropped four times, so he knows what the feeling is like. The last time he was stood down, at Old Trafford last year, he had a jolly good blub in the dressing-room, an act of weakness that impressed Raymond Illingworth, who saw what playing Test cricket meant him. When Hick returned, on a flat pitch at Nottingham, he made a hundred. It was interpreted at the time as a positive first step towards fulfilment. Well, was it?

Will he go on for ever, like Old Father Time, or will the ending be swift? Will Captain Calamity back him (a Test place remains in his gift). Is he an innocent lad or knowing? Are we scribes just taking the mick? Has he ever really known where he's going? Oh tell me the truth about Hick.



Hick contemplates another low score after his dismissal at Trent Bridge yesterday

Victory stiffens Kent's title resolve

By IVO TENNANT

MAIDSTONE (final day of four): Kent (24pts) beat Durham (6) by 83 runs

IT WAS at Mote Park that Kent determined to win the county championship in 1970, their most famous triumph of all. Their resolve to do so again is no less great now, not least because they finished bottom last season. This victory, which took rather longer to achieve than Durham's form suggested that it would, Kent have fielded this season.

The bowler who took his wicket was Llong, whose off-breaks are used, shall we say, sparingly. He tossed one up outside off stump that would

chance of gaining not merely a draw but their first championship victory of the season. Hit painfully on his right thumb by Headley in the morning, he was nevertheless the one batsman to master an attack that lacked Patel and Ealham and hence was not the strongest Kent have fielded this season.

The bowler who took his wicket was Llong, whose off-breaks are used, shall we say, sparingly. He tossed one up outside off stump that would

have enticed any West Indian strokemaker. Campbell drove at it but only sliced to off. He waited for confirmation that Preston had held the catch cleanly, as he was entitled to do, and moched off without acknowledging the applause. His 85 included 16

mid-on. Morris played across the line at Stanford. Blenkinsop was taken at short leg off Headley, unable to cope with the bounce.

McCague's first spell was quick enough. When he had returned later in the day he had seemingly convinced himself he could bowl Durham out through sheer pace. So it proved.

The ball with which he had Bainbridge taken at the wicket was quick by anybody's standards. Roseberry did not pick up another one, which if anything was slightly slower, and Brown simply did not see the ball which sent his leg stump several yards towards the wicketkeeper.

Headley limped off with ankle trouble, but should be fit to play in the NatWest Trophy tomorrow. His replacement fielder, Ben Phillips, held an excellent catch at point to account for Cox. This was a further wicket for Llong who, once Patel returns from Test duty, will not be asked to bowl at all. For the moment, he is only a little lower than the angels.

The spinner, Ashley Giles, took five wickets for 70 from 26 overs — his best of the season — after Nottinghamshire had been set a target of 297 in 81 overs at Edgbaston. Warwickshire triumphed with 14.1 overs to spare.

WARRICKSHIRE achieved their first home Britannic Assurance county championship victory of the season as they beat Nottinghamshire by 85 runs yesterday.

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RACING: ROYAL ASCOT WINNER HAS OUTSTANDING CHANCE TO LAND ANOTHER VALUABLE PRIZE

Dazzle can take glaring opportunity

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE world of racing is often a mystery to outsiders, at least a part because of the use of curious and off-putting jargon which almost amounts to a foreign language. Talk of a horse running green or having a wind problem is almost as perplexing to the layman as being rung charter about a Super Heinz or double carpet.

However, the translation required to turn everyday racing parlance into comprehensible English is nothing compared to the interpretive skills needed to read the minds of racehorse trainers. At one end of the spectrum, "absolute certainty" means the horse will start and finish, and little else. On the other hand, "quite a nice horse but still a bit of a baby" can equate to a potential classic winner.

Michael Stoute, the complete professional, tends to err on the side of caution and is not known for describing his geese as swans. It was illuminating, therefore, to hear him reflect yesterday on Dazzle, the Windsor Castle Stakes winner and likely favourite for the Hillsdown Cherry Hinton Stakes on the opening day of the July meeting at Newmarket this afternoon.

"She goes there with a big chance. It was encouraging to see the second [Vax Star] win

at Sandown on Friday. People can get carried away but we like the film. We think she has got some class and six furlongs will suit her."

That amounts to high praise from the four-times champion trainer and the form book supports his views. Thrown in at the deep end on her debut at Royal Ascot, she was held up in the early stages before moving smoothly into the lead inside the final furlong.

Dazzle only needed to be pushed out to score by a

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MISS RIVIERA (4.5 Newmarket)
Next best: Dazzle (3.05 Newmarket)

comfortable 2½ lengths and, most significantly, recorded an excellent time — far superior to that achieved by any of her rivals.

The John Gosden-trained Khaass won what appeared to be a good race at the Ascot Heath fixture, while Dame Laura was only a length behind her stable companion, Dance Parade, in the Queen Mary Stakes. Ocean Ridge, trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam, skated home by four

lengths in a decent Newbury maiden and is well regarded. However, with today's extra furlong bound to suit and further improvement likely, Dazzle is a confident choice to provide Stoute with his fourth Cherry Hinton success.

Stoute was top trainer at the July meeting three times in the late 1980s and, half an hour after Dazzle's race, he saddles one of the fancied contenders in the Princess Of Wales's Stakes, a contest he has won twice this decade with Rock Hopper and Saddlers Hall.

Singspiel, beaten only a neck by Halling in the Eclipse Stakes 12 months ago, showed himself to be better than ever when landing the Gordon Richards Stakes at Sandown before just losing to Swain in a falsely run Coronation Cup. Significantly, the four-year-old's preparation for Epsom was interrupted by a problem with a corn, but everything has gone smoothly in the run-up to this afternoon.

However, I marginally prefer Bequeve, who is having only the fifth race of his career but looks very much on the upgrade judging on his impressive success in the Fred Archer Stakes here ten days ago. The Henry Cecil-trained four-year-old could be about to make up for lost time.



Dazzle tackles the Cherry Hinton Stakes at Newmarket today. Photograph: Martin Lynch

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TENNIS: SWISS PRODIGY BECOMES YOUNGEST CHAMPION AS WIMBLEDON STRETCHES TO THIRD WEEK

Record-breaking Hingis provides the final flourish

By ALEX RAMSAY

IT TOOK Martina Hingis just four minutes to make history yesterday. Finishing off her women's doubles final — all two games of it — with Helena Sukova, their 57-75, 6-1 victory over Meredith McGrath and Larisa Neeland made Hingis the youngest champion in Wimbledon's 100-year history. For such a young woman, she is taking up a large chapter in the record books: two years ago she was the youngest junior champion, aged 13 years and 276 days.

Now, at the tender age of 15 years and 28 days, she beats the previous senior record by three days. That had been held by Lottie Dod, who won the first of her five women's singles titles in 1887. Whether Hingis could set a record was a matter of some debate for the more cynically-minded among the faithful. The rain delays had forced the championships to run over into a third week and there were those who thought that the ball-boys would be collecting a pension before Wimbledon 1996 drew to a close.



every tennis player, this is a big goal to win Wimbledon, even if it's doubles," she said. "But I hope one day it will be the singles too. I have broken so many records already and, if you have the chance to do it, why not?"

Hingis and Sukova had to wait for a further 15 minutes before they could resume their

final at 4-1 up in the third set. The All England Club had opened its doors to the public, allowing all-comers in for free and, despite the planned start at 11am, they came in their droves, pushing back the start to allow everybody a chance to see the tennis.

Not Sukova was complaining. "We were very happy when we heard the tennis had to be postponed," she said. "It's Monday, the third week of the tournament and the crowd is so big. It's a great feeling, knowing that."

The match itself seemed, in the end, to be little unfair. McGrath, with her right leg encased in bandages, and Neeland formed a team with only three good legs between them. True, Sukova, twice the age of her partner at 31 and a good eight inches taller at 6ft 2in, makes Hingis look like she has been cut off at the knees but no matter, the combination works. Wimbledon was only their third tournament together and their best result.

After splitting up with Lori McNett, Sukova was looking for a new partner and, having been impressed with Hingis when they had played against each other, she thought the teenager was worth a try. "She is young, she can improve a lot still but basically she already has all the shots," Sukova said. During matches, they speak in Czech to each other to confuse the opposition, although Hingis, who is from a Czech family that emigrated to Switzerland, swears in German, so Sukova will not know. When Sukova says "lob", Hingis lobs.

It was a long day for Sukova and Neeland. As soon as the women's doubles had been decided, they headed straight

back to work in the mixed doubles, where they both had quarter and semi-final matches to get through before facing each other over the net in their second final of the day. Neeland, partnered by Mark Woodforde, the No 1 seeds, were on court for nearly 3½ hours before moving past

Patrick Galbraith and Pam Shriver 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 and Christo van Rensburg and Laura Golarska 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Sukova and her brother, Cyril Suk, seeded No 7, took slightly less time to reach the final, beating Luke Jensen and Nicole Arendt 6-3, 2-6, 10-8 in the quarter-finals and Grant

Connell and Lindsay Davenport in the semis 6-4, 6-2. Perhaps those minutes were decisive as the afternoon drifted into evening. Sukova and Suk won the final 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, giving Sukova a doubles double and reason aplenty to remember her extra day's work with special affection.

RUGBY UNION

Morris tempted back by Sale

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

DEWI MORRIS, who retired from the first-class game after England's World Cup campaign last year, has been lured back by Sale. The Manchester club said yesterday that the former Orrell scrum half had agreed a three-year contract.

Morris, 32, has not ruled out the possibility of extending his international career. He bowed out of rugby with 26 England caps and three appearances for the British Isles, in 1993, under his belt. Last season he helped to coach Wellington Park, whose scrum half, John Farr, has signed for Bedford.

Aston Villa also hope to have new international in their squad by the end of the year. Brian Little, the manager, is optimistic of completing the signing of Fernando Nelson, the Portugal defender, from Sporting Lisbon for £1.75 million. Little said: "I'm told that the lad is very keen to join us, so hopefully there will be no problems."

A transfer tribunal has told Queens Park Rangers that they will have to pay £350,000 to Tottenham Hotspur for Steve Slade, the forward.

"I'm not going to do something just for laughs, I'll take it

seriously," Morris said. "I'm looking forward to working with John Mitchell and it's not just for first-division rugby. If I'm playing well enough and show I still have the ability, it will be up to others to say whether I can play at a higher level."

Morris will join the former Wales prop forward, John Davies, as their club captain. He succeeds Gareth Lewellyn, who has joined Harlequins.

Neath have appointed the Wales prop forward, John Davies, as their club captain. He succeeds Gareth Lewellyn, who has joined Harlequins.

Andre Markgraaff, the South Africa coach, said that Joubert has a "better than 50 per cent" chance of playing. With no other specialist full back, South Africa would probably switch either James Small or his fellow wing, Justin Swart, to full back and bring in Pieter Hendriks.

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN was yesterday fined £500 after another brush with snooker's governing body. The 20-year-old from Chigwell, Essex, was found guilty of breaching two of the game's disciplinary rules during the British Open at Plymouth last April. He was also ordered to pay £250 towards the costs of the hearing in Bristol.

A spokesman for the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) refused to reveal the exact nature of the offence. But he said that O'Sullivan had been in an unprofessional manner and in a way likely to bring the game into disrepute. The punishment, handed out by the WPBSA disciplinary committee, will not affect a two-year suspended sentence imposed on O'Sullivan for a backstage incident during the Embassy world championship three weeks later.

O'Sullivan admitted assaulting the WPBSA assistant press officer, Mike Ganley, at the Crucible Theatre after Ganley had requested that one of O'Sullivan's friends leave the press-room area.

Answers from page 43

FOOTBALL

Liverpool unveil new kit deal

By PETER BALL

LIVERPOOL, who failed to match Manchester United's superiority on the field last season, yesterday began an attempt to challenge them in what is traditionally their stronghold of marketing. The club announced a five-year kit sponsorship agreement with Reebok, worth more than £20 million.

Reebok will launch the kit and related leisurewear in 44 countries today and the payment Liverpool receive will increase if sales surpass initial estimates. "What we see is an opportunity to take the club worldwide, while in this country people from Land's End to John o' Groats will be able to get hold of the product," David Singleton, Reebok's European marketing director, said. Much of Manchester United's formidable market-

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

QUORUM
(a) Latin "of whom". The lowest number of members of a committee or board, etc, the presence of whom is necessary before business may be transacted. Formerly also certain Justices of the Peace, hence known as Justices of the Quorum, chosen for their special ability, one or more of whom had to be on the Bench at trials before the others could act.

DABBAT

(a) In Mohammedan mythology (Arabic *Dabbabut-l-ard*) the monster, reptile of the earth, that shall arise at the last day and cry that mankind has not believed in the Divine revelations. By some it is identified with the Beast of the Apocalypse (Revelation, xii, xx).

LAMOURETTE

(c) *Baiser Lamourette* (Lamourette's kiss) means an insincere or ephemeral reconciliation. On 7 July, 1792, the Abbé Lamourette induced the different factions of the Legislative Assembly to lay aside their differences and give the kiss of peace. But the reconciliation was unsound and very short-lived. "The Assembly dispersed in tears. And within the space of a few short hours they were all tearing each other's eyes again."

CRAWLER

(a) In Australian slang, a convict who escaped with the connivance of the overseer, allowing himself to be recaptured in order that the overseer might collect the reward. In this sense it is found in *The Adventures of Philip Rashleigh* (1829), so considerably antedating the modern use as a sycophant or

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Nxf7! Kd7 2 Qxe6+ Kxe6 3 Nd6+ Ne5 (3 ... Kd5 4 Bb3 mate) 4 Bf5+ Kd5 5 Rxe5 checkmate

POOLS FORECAST

SUNDAY July 13		CUP NO. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679	

Conversion, confession and competition

There is a time and a place for other people's spiritual beliefs. It is not on my doorstep at 9 o'clock on a Saturday morning, it is not on a crowded Tube train after a hard day in the office (incidentally, why do I always get the one who uses brimstone as a breath freshener?) and it is not, definitely not, on my television during a nice, quiet evening in.

So my heart did not exactly swell with eager anticipation at the prospect of *The Day That Changed My Life* (BBC2) last night. The title alone produced a deep-seated unease. As for the subtitle, *The Devil in the Mirror*, it was almost enough to send me scurrying to the listings page in search of something short and secular... almost. But a higher authority (aka my terms of employment) dictated that I gave it a chance. So I stayed, I watched and to my surprise, enjoyed it very much.

This transformation (don't wor-

ry, conversion is definitely too strong a word) was helped by the fact that the life that had been changed was quite a life. In the 1960s Chris Lambrianou may have been a booted and suited gangster, a genuine slice 'em up and cuss 'em villain. In 1969, along with the Kray twins, he was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVie.

Sometimes it seems to me that everybody over 50 and living east of the Tower of London had a hand in the killing of Jack the Hat. But Lambrianou is one of about a dozen who have the press cuttings to prove it. In his case, however, he says justice was not done. "I was as guilty as hell of accessory after the fact, but I certainly hadn't murdered anybody." The judge demurred and recommended he serve a minimum of 15 years.

With that sort of "stretch" ahead, Lambrianou recalled being con-

sumed with guilt about the wasted years: "the violence, the anger, the greed, the dishonesty". What took him to the brink of madness, however, was that well-known brain-washing technique — prolonged exposure to the words and music of Bob Dylan. "Knock, knock, knocking on Heaven's door" went a fellow inmate's record player, over and over again.

After that, it all happened rather quickly. Pace the cell, look in the mirror (eek, it's the Devil), on his knees, scrabbling around for something that might give comfort, knock over a box of books and, oh look, here's a Bible, Hallelujah. Story over. Well, no.

Twelve years after his release, Lambrianou, a divorced father of five, now works in a rehabilitation centre for young people with drug and alcohol problems. His commitment and enthusiasm are salutary, the contrast with his pre-

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

prison life astonishing. As for his faith, it is intact but not unbending. As he put it: "If what I believe is a con, well what a wonderful con it's got me through my life."

Here ended the first lesson.

Actually, it was the evening's second lesson that ended there, the first having finished half an hour earlier with *Don't Mention the War* (BBC2). This turned out to be a thoughtful and rather sham-

ing examination, by the London correspondent of *Die Zeit*, of the recent mass outbreak of anti-German feeling in this country. The ill-judged editorial line taken by the *Daily Mirror* ahead of England's semi-final against Germany in the European championship may have provided the spur, but the problem, as Jürgen Krong showed, is far deeper-seated than that.

Time and again, Krong found British farmers/journalists/football supporters protesting that the latest outburst of Hail-bashing was "just a bit of fun". And time and again, his second, gently probing, question would reveal a deep-rooted dislike for all things Teutonic. "My brother was a prisoner of war..." began a Cornish farmer, whose roadside protest about Germany's boycott of British beef read: "1914—1939—1996 They're at it again."

"Just a bit of fun." It was for Clash of the Titans (BBC2), which in a few short weeks has become an unmissable part of Monday evenings.

Last night's was a gem, looking at the fierce rivalry between Seb Coe and Steve Ovett, which reached its peak a ridiculous number of years ago at the Moscow Olympics. The programme was very much a snapshot, making no attempt to explain the processes by which 16 years later Coe would be transformed into a rather charmless Tory politician and Ovett into a second-rank sports commentator.

The races were still wonderful, the interviews — particularly with Coe's father and coach — newly illuminating, but the most memorable contribution came from his mother, recalling the problems her precociously talented son caused her at school sports day: "I used to think, oh please Seb, just lose something. But he never did. It was terribly embarrassing."

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Hick's travails overshadow prospect of series victory against India

England fail to force the pace

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

TRENT BRIDGE (fourth day of five). England, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 29 runs ahead of India.

THE grand plan was a non-starter by breakfast-time. No sooner had England arrived at Trent Bridge, emboldened by their captain's ambitious exhortations, than Naseer Hussain reported unfit. With him, inexplicably, went the momentum of their innings and any doubt over the result of this atritional final Test.

Michael Atherton may have been straining credulity on Saturday when he said England might still win the match but he will surely have been disappointed by the limpness of his team's response. India bowled perseveringly and the pitch was not quite as sedate as it had been but it was a tepid effort to spend a full day scoring 228 runs.

It might be felt that nothing was lost — nothing bar the patience and attention of a predictably modest Nottingham crowd. England, after all, will now draw this game and win the first Cornhill series of the summer, one significant objective achieved. What has to be said, though, is that this

day and this game have asked more questions than they have answered about the depth and quality of the England side.

Another failure for Graeme Hick, this one a tortured affair lasting 139 minutes and seeming even longer, was one anxiety within a top order that is not as settled as England would choose. And although Mark Ealham marked his Test debut with a sound half-century, he is probably batting a place too high at No 6. The greatest shame is that

physiotherapist, said, "but I am hopeful he will be fit for the first Test against Pakistan." As that game is more than a fortnight distant, this was not entirely reassuring.

The second-wicket stand thus ended, unbroken, at 192 and Atherton had a new partner for the opening ball. It was for the captain to assume control now and he began promisingly, with a classical cover drive for four in the first over from Ganguly. Immediately, however, he was dropped at second slip by Rathore, who was soon to join Azharuddin in the treatment room after dislocating his shoulder.

Atherton enjoyed more than his share of luck in this innings but the mere length of it, the extended feel of his bat on ball, will have done him good. Four of his six home Test centuries have now been made at Trent Bridge and this became the highest of them when he exceeded the 150 he scored against New Zealand six years ago.

He will have begun to focus upon a double-century when he was out to a good one from Prasad that straightened and took an edge to third slip.

Atherton had batted less than eight hours, a brisk sketch compared with his previous, monumental century in Johannesburg late last year, and Hick set out as if he meant to emulate him.

There was a flashing cover

drive for four as soon as he arrived but, thereafter, not one run in 58 minutes while Srinath bowled yet another spell of unrewarded excellence. Hick's inertia was all very well if something was to come of it but after losing Thorpe, for a positive 45, directly after lunch, he still found impetus beyond him.

Ealham gave Hick a start of 66 minutes and overtook him within ten overs. Soon he had doubled the score of his accomplished partner and anyone wandering into the ground knowing that one of these men was playing his 78th Test innings and the other his first would unhesitatingly have identified them wrongly.

Ganguly was now bowling his left-arm spin into the leg-stump rough, and to some effect, but it was nevertheless a lazy shot by Hick, trying to whip him over mid-wicket, that gave him his first success

of the series. It was almost a humane end to the suffering, but when Russell fell without scoring, failing to withdraw his bat successfully from his fifth ball, it was clear that England's expectations must finally be revised.

India's loss of faith in Kumble, who came here as

umpire, K. T. Francis (Sri Lanka) and G. Sharp. Third umpire: D. J. Constant. Match referee: C. W. Smith (West Indies).

SCORING NOTES: Fourth day: Lunch: 355-2 (129 overs, 531 min); Thorpe 15, H. S. 10, T. 469-3 (160 overs, 623 min); Ealham 34, Lewis 16.

Umpires: K. T. Francis (Sri Lanka) and G. Sharp. Third umpire: D. J. Constant. Match referee: C. W. Smith (West Indies).

DETAILS: First Test (Edgbaston): England won by 8 wickets. Second Test (Lord's): Match drawn.

□ Compiled by Bill Frindall

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Total (7 wkt, 194 overs, 774 min) 550

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Chirac Government bugged phones of its coalition allies

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Defence Ministry yesterday admitted ordering the secret service to bug the telephones of key aides to François Léotard, the former Defence Minister and a key figure within the ruling coalition.

The phone-tapping order, approved by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, was issued just weeks after the election of President Chirac. Charles Millon, the Defence Minister who took over from M Léotard, acknowledged that "two civil servants were the object of interceptions last year for reasons of national security".

Le Monde, which yesterday identified three of M Léotard's senior aides as phone-tapping targets, reported that the taps were intended to discover if cash from arms sales to Saudi Arabia during 1993 and 1994 had been diverted to the presidential campaign of Edouard Balladur, the former Prime Minister.

M Léotard, who helped to organise M Balladur's unsuccessful campaign, last night demanded a full explanation from the Prime Minister.

The charges of electronic eavesdropping, reminiscent of the Elysée telephone-tapping scandal that dogged the presidency of the late François Mitterrand, could not have come at a worse moment for the French Government, reeling from an investigation into Gaullist party funding and the imprisonment of the government-appointed head of the state-owned rail network on suspicion of fraud.

Earlier this year M Léotard replaced Valéry Giscard d'Estaing as leader of the Union for French Democracy (UDF), the umbrella group comprising five centre-right parties and the Gaullists' coalition partner. M Millon, who supported M Chirac's presidential bid, is a member of the

UDF. *Le Monde* reported that between June and September last year, at least three and possibly five members of M Léotard's immediate entourage had their telephones tapped by the Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure, the French equivalent of MI6, on the orders of M Millon's staff and with the approval of the office of the Prime Minister.

The allegations that the new Government set about bugging the advisers of a supposed political ally within weeks of its election will prove deeply damaging for M Chirac, who came to power promising greater honesty in government and an end to corruption by politicians and businessmen.

M Millon's staff insisted yesterday that the two telephone-taps it has acknowledged were legal and fully authorised. "These interceptions were carried out for reasons of security and are protected by defence secrecy," a ministry spokesman said last night.

The three former members of M Léotard's team reportedly bugged by the secret service were identified by *Le Monde* as François Lépine, head of his



Léotard: demanded inquiry into wiretapping scandal

military and civilian Cabinet, Patrice Molle, his chief of staff, and Colonel Louis-Pierre Dillais, who co-ordinated "covert action" on behalf of the former Defence Minister.

Last November M Molle personally complained about the telephone taps to the Prime Minister's office and was assured that such practices would not be repeated, the paper reported.

Another possible eavesdropping target identified by *Le Monde* — Jacques Douliague, a former minister — earlier insisted that the Defence Minister could not have ordered the wire-taps. "M Millon is too intelligent and too honest to allow such a thing," he was quoted as saying.

M Léotard's closest adviser, Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, another former minister, was also identified yesterday as a possible eavesdropping target.

Wire-tapping is legal in France only if formally authorised by a special commission and the Prime Minister's office. In July 1991 France passed legislation, which is known as the "Cresson Law", which made telephone tapping illegal except in cases of national security, to defend the country's economic or scientific interests, or to prevent terrorism and organised crime.

During the so-called "Elysée eavesdropping affair" between 1983 and 1989, the anti-terrorist unit at the Palace under President Mitterrand allegedly bugged the telephones of several hundred prominent figures, including politicians, artists, lawyers, journalists and even the President's mistress.

Four of M Mitterrand's associates are under investigation in connection with the scandal.



Hillary Clinton speaks to David Farkas, a patient at Tuzlito Street children's hospital in Budapest, yesterday before the American First Lady left Hungary for Estonia on her goodwill tour of Central and Eastern Europe

British beef smuggled into Italy, claims German envoy

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission yesterday launched an investigation into reports that British beef is being sold on the Continent in defiance of the export ban and officials gave a warning that London could be held responsible.

At the same time the French daily *Liberation* traced the author of a six-year-old memorandum that alleged EU farm officials had tried to stifle news of mad cow disease to

protect the market. The newspaper said Gérard Castille, a former civil servant with the Commission's consumer affairs division, had been shocked by what he heard and had tried to sound the alarm.

Franz Fischer, the Farm Commissioner, said he had written to Douglas Hogg and the other EU agriculture ministers after claims by the German Ambassador in Rome that British beef was

being shipped to Italy via Ireland with fraudulent certificates. Herr Fischer said: "I am taking this very seriously, but there is no proof yet."

The Commission farm directorate said the onus was on Britain to prevent exports.

The Ministry of Agriculture said last night: "No export certificates for beef are being issued, so any that is being exported would have to be illegally disguised."

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New Zealand flights halted as Mount Ruapehu throws up rocks bigger than cars

Spectators flock to watch volcanic 'firework display'

By JOHN CAMPBELL IN WELLINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

GLOWING rocks larger than cars are being spat out by Mount Ruapehu, which has exploded back into life. The New Zealand volcano is spewing out so much ash that it has forced the closure of eight airports, but onlookers are turning up in droves to watch the display.

Air New Zealand said about 3,000 domestic and international passengers had suffered delays or cancellations with Auckland airport shut yesterday for the second night running. Morning fog in Wellington and Auckland compounded air travellers' misery and fears that ash might clog jet engines shut half a dozen provincial airports.

At 9,000ft, Ruapehu — Mori for "exploding pit" — is at the heart of New Zealand's central North Island volcanic region. It burst into life last September and then again last month with its most violent eruptions for half a century.

closing ski fields, roads and airports, and smothering towns with ash.

Scientists said the latest outburst was the most spectacular for weeks. Brad Scott, manager of volcano surveillance at Wairakei Research Centre, had seen molten rocks up to 30ft across thrown 300ft.

Smaller rocks, or "lava bombs", were being hurled up to 2,700ft. "If this continues into this evening, central North Island people will be presented with one of the most awesome firework displays they've seen for long time," he said yesterday.

John Funnel, a helicopter pilot who flew over the volcano with scientists, said he had never seen it in such violent mood. "The volcano would stop gassing and appear to keel over for about one minute and then it would erupt with a horrendous explosion and the molten rock would go into the air about 700ft to 1,000ft then

crash down on the snow." Mr Scott said a light grey plume of volcanic gases had risen to 15,000ft above the volcano and was trailing over a distance of 60-90 miles, presenting potential hazard to aviation.

The Civil Defence Ministry said the latest fireworks were "nothing to be concerned about" and there were no plans to move people from the region. Apart from causing chaos at airports, the main economic impact has been on ski area operators in the sparsely populated central North Island region. A district council survey put losses to hoteliers, tourism companies and retail businesses at \$NZ10 million (£4.5 million) since September.

Businesses that had been gearing up for the start of the country's ski season had feared the worst, but they have gained some benefit from the influx of volcano-mad tourists. Such is New Zealand's infatu-



Smoke and ash billow from Mount Ruapehu yesterday. It was the volcano's biggest eruption since a violent display last month

ation with Ruapehu that radio news bulletins, mistakenly reporting a large lava flow, prompted no panic but a rush of more onlookers.

Mr Scott said some onlook-

ers had breached a 1.2-mile exclusion zone around the volcano. "That's their personal choice. I just hope they don't get too close." Whakapapa ski field, forced to close because of the thickness of the ash, is drawing huge crowds of sightseers.

Its manager, commenting on the presence of so many people unfazed by the potentially lethal pyrotechnics taking place a few hundred yards away, was moved to observe that it was "all rather bizarre".

A mid-evening television news bulletin had as its lead

story a cameraman who had filmed himself standing so close to the mouth of the volcano that he was almost in it, ecstatically telling how dangerous it was.



A satellite view of Bertha's growing menace

Hurricane has the sick fleeing hospital

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

HURRICANE Bertha, the first big blow of the tropical storm season, hit the Caribbean with 85mph winds yesterday, with the promise of worse to come.

People in the Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos and northeastern islands rushed to supermarkets to stock up on essentials. Puerto Rico's hospitals encouraged healthier patients to rise from their beds and walk, to make way for the likely influx of storm casualties.

In the US Virgin Islands, a radio station replaced its normal calypso tunes with hymns and frequent weather bulletins, and the Governor, Roy Schneider, imposed a 24-hour curfew in an attempt to limit looting of shops and private property — which happened last year when the islands were battered by Hurricane Marilyn.

Mr Schneider urged residents to go to shelters and said he was calling out the National Guard to help to provide

security. "I will do whatever I can to secure the island," he said. Electricity was shut off at 5am in anticipation that power lines would be blown down. Tourists who had failed to grab a precious seat on flights out of the region before airports closed yesterday settled down in their hotel rooms with playing cards and hip flasks and prepared for a blustery experience. Long-term Caribbean residents, meanwhile, complained about the early start to the hurricane season and cursed Bertha as a possible indication of a bad year for storms.

Antigua, the hurricane capital of the world, was one of the first places to report damage when electricity supplies were cut on Sunday afternoon by the storm's advance gusts. Residents of the nearby British island of Montserrat, which is already in disarray after recent volcano activity, groaned under another imminent blow from Mother Nature. People who were

recently evacuated from their homes by the Soufrière Hills "smoker" again found themselves crouching behind sandbags and sleeping on the floors of communal shelters. Hurricane Bertha will do nothing for the morale of the beleaguered island, which has already seen heavy emigration because of adverse climatic conditions.

Telephone communications to the island were difficult, but Rose Willock, of the Montserrat information service, tried to sound optimistic when she told a news agency: "Montserratians are so accustomed to disasters and living through them that they have become experts at preparing."

Supermarkets throughout the Caribbean reported heavy shopping for tinned food, bottled water and building supplies. Storekeepers also spent time photographing their shelves in preparation for insurance claims.

Television weather forecasts charted the 400-mile-wide hurricane swirling angrily towards Puerto Rico and estimated that it would strike the east coast of the island, particularly the northern part. Bertha seemed to be gaining strength all the time. On the mainland of the United States, residents from Texas to North Carolina were urged to keep a check on the progress of the storm, and forecasters said there was a 10 per cent chance of Bertha hitting Florida.

Eight die as snow hits South Africa

Johannesburg: Eight people died and hundreds were trapped by snow as South Africa experienced its coldest weather in decades, police said yesterday.

The lowest temperature was 19.4F (-7C), recorded at Kimberley in the Northern Cape early on Sunday. Police in the town of Harrismith in the east of Free State province said the main highway from around Johannesburg to the coast was closed because of heavy snowfalls. A nearby mountain pass was under 8ft of snow.

Two people died of exposure in Pretoria: a homeless man was found by staff when they opened a petrol station, while another, thought to have been drunk, collapsed and died of cold in street.

In the Northern Cape province, three people died through lack of ventilation while burning coal stoves.

Heavy snowfalls are rare in South Africa. Police said many people, even in areas used to cold winters, were unprepared for the weekend freeze when some regions recorded their heaviest snowfalls in 60 years. The worst was expected to be over today. (Reuters)

Blizzards put brakes on Tour

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

HEAVY snow in the French Alps forced yesterday's leg of the Tour de France to be cut drastically. The race, in its ninth day, was curtailed by almost 90 miles on the advice of local police.

"We get this type of weather only every five or ten years. In

July, you almost never get snow below 3,000 metres (9,750ft). This time we've had snowfalls as low as 1,800 metres," a weather bureau spokesman said.

Record low temperatures have hit several areas, while others have been buffeted by

high winds. Heavy rains hit campers in Brittany. On Sunday afternoon, the temperature in the central areas of Clermont-Ferrand, Macon and Dijon was 57F (14C), the lowest in 50 years.

Race report, page 42

Children of Africa beg leaders to end warlord pressgang

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

AFRICAN leaders opened their annual summit yesterday shamed by an appeal from the continent's children to protect them against warlords who pressganged them into their armies and slaughtered their parents.

A delegation of 120 children from 11 countries torn apart by the civil wars, which have blighted Africa since independence in the 1960s and 1970s, begged their presidents, at the annual Organisation of African Unity meeting in Cameroon, to put an end to the enlistment of child soldiers.

Many of the delegates to the children's conference told of how they had seen their parents killed, mothers raped, or had themselves been forced into guerrilla armies and turned into what Amnesty International has described as "killing machines".

No accurate figures exist on how many under-aged soldiers are fighting in Africa. However, observation of guerrilla and regular armies in Angola, Mozambique, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Sudan by The Times has shown that few African fighting forces can boast an average age of 17 or more.

Liberia and Sierra Leone's armies are particularly notorious for forcing children into their ranks. From the rebel commanders' point of view, children barely into puberty often make the best soldiers.

Armed and brutalised before they have developed a code of ethics for themselves, they have little idea of their own mortality and can be

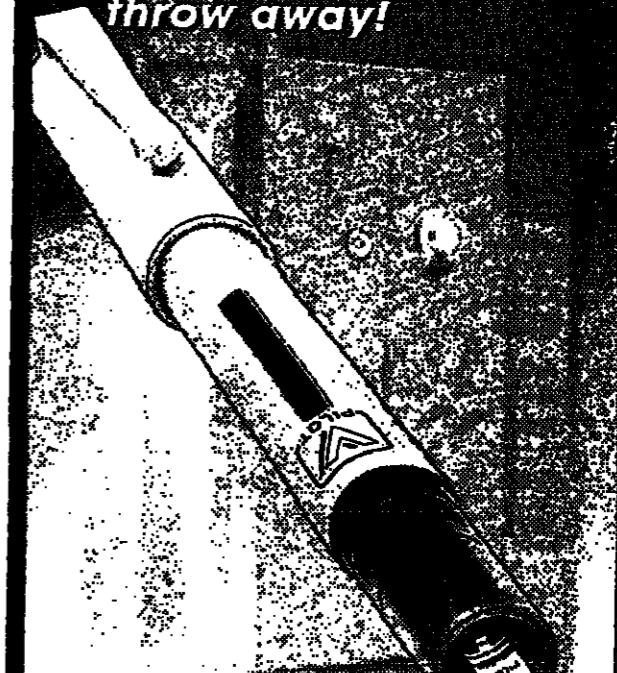
insanely brave. In Yaoundé, Cameroon's capital, the children yesterday told of worse horrors. Rosemary Iboso, 16, was kidnapped by rebels in Uganda who killed her parents and cut off the lips of those they could not take with them. "I hope that the OAU will listen to us, stop the wars and rescue our lives from the rebels," she said. A 14-year-old, who was raped during Mozambique's civil war, wept throughout the children's conference preceding the OAU summit.

The organisation's chairman, President Afeworki of Eritrea, last year described the gathering of African presidents as being "largely hot air". Stung by Mr Afeworki's criticism, Africa's foreign ministers have sought ways of giving the organisation teeth and recommended that Liberia's warlords be tried before an African tribunal for war crimes.

Celia Kinigi, 14, from Burundi, said that she hoped to be able to persuade the OAU to do something to stop the ethnic slaughter in her homeland — before it reached the scale of the killings there in which a million people died in 1994.

President Konaré of Mali was visibly moved by the children's appeals. "I am a father. When I see the killings [of children] that take place even in places such as hospitals and schools, I say to myself: 'This should not be the future of Africa. We can do a lot better,'" he told the children, brought to the summit by the UN Children's Fund.

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The Times, in association with Silverstone, is offering readers the chance to win one of two pairs of tickets to all three days of this weekend's British Grand Prix.

Capacity crowds are expected as Damon Hill tries to secure a hat-trick of wins after his recent victories in Canada and France.

Tickets for Sunday's race are already sold out, but our two competition winners will each receive a pair of tickets allowing spectator access on all three days, Friday July 12 to Sunday July 14. These will allow access to the track's spectator areas, as well as the infield paddock where the support race competitors prepare their cars. Ticket holders will also have use of the Paddock Diner and Paddock Bar.

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Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight, July 9, 1996.

• Tickets are still available on a first-come-first-served basis for the practice sessions on Friday July 12 and the qualifying rounds on Saturday July 13.

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CH 1996

Kuwait ban on Times reports

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

KUWAIT, which professes to guarantee freedom of the press in its constitution, has banned editions of *The Times* that carry reports on the plight of Robert Hussein, the businessman in effect sentenced to death for converting from Islam to Christianity.

Mr Hussein fears for his life after an Islamic court denounced him as an apostate and Islamic lawyers ruled that he should be killed. That ruling has caused outrage in the West, especially among families of many of the Christian soldiers who fought to free Kuwait from the clutches of the Iraqi regime during the Gulf War in 1991.

The ban on *The Times* came as news emerged that a Briton has been held in a Kuwaiti prison without being charged for more than three months. Ian Beaumont, 33, whose family comes from West Yorkshire, was arrested in April after being accused of fraud and is being held in a suffocating heat in an overcrowded cell which has no bed.

His father, John Beaumont, who also lives in Kuwait, helped to fight the fires that threatened to ravage the emirate towards the end of the Gulf conflict and feels especially bitter about his son's detention because of this.

His mother, Mary, added: 'My son has to lie on the floor. Because he cannot eat the local food, he has lost nearly two stone in weight.'

The Foreign Office confirmed that Mr Beaumont has not been charged and said 'his initial detention was illegal' because certain paperwork had not been lodged in court. 'We are looking for specific charges,' it said.

Although the Kuwaiti constitution guarantees freedom of religion, and 'the right to express opinion... in writing or otherwise', lawyers in Britain say that Mr Hussein's life is in danger.

The British Embassy in Kuwait said all Western newspapers were subject to censorship, but banning distribution of entire editions was 'unusual'. □ Gulf war games: The US military said yesterday that its forces would start more than a month of war games this week, mainly in the Gulf.

Blackmail wins key Israeli role for hawk Sharon

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday succumbed to political blackmail and appointed Ariel Sharon, an arch-hawk, to a senior Cabinet post. The confirmation came shortly before a resignation ultimatum from David Levy, his Foreign Minister, was due to take effect.

Mr Hussein fears for his life after an Islamic court denounced him as an apostate and Islamic lawyers ruled that he should be killed. That ruling has caused outrage in the West, especially among families of many of the Christian soldiers who fought to free Kuwait from the clutches of the Iraqi regime during the Gulf War in 1991.

The timing also increased the hardline balance of the new Cabinet on the eve of a crucial first trip to America in which Mr Netanyahu will be attempting to secure support from the Clinton Administration for his determination to replace the formula of 'land for peace' with one more attuned to Israel's immediate security needs.

President Clinton's encounter today with Mr Netanyahu will do much to determine the course of US-Israeli relations and the Middle East peace process.

Mr Clinton made little from his support for Shimon Peres, Israel's previous leader, or his differences with Mr Netanyahu who so harshly criticised the American-brokered peace process.

At this morning's meeting the two men must find ways to

surmount those differences if US-Israeli relations are not to return to the chaff of the early 1990s.

Mr Clinton will privately seek to determine the reality behind Mr Netanyahu's tough campaign rhetoric. Fundamentally he will want to know whether Israel's new leader really rejects the principle of trading land for peace and the idea of separate territories for Israelis and Palestinians. But he will also want to assess whether Mr Netanyahu is a man with whom he can establish a good personal relationship.

On the face of it that seems unlikely. The two leaders' attitudes have been forged in entirely different crucibles.

Mr Netanyahu is a right-wing former commando whose father was a fervent Zionist and whose brother died leading the raid to free Jewish hostages at Entebbe in 1976. Mr Clinton is a relative liberal who evaded the Vietnam draft and a natural conciliator.

Last night, news of Mr Sharon's impending return to the centre of power sent shock waves through the Arab world where his name provokes fear and loathing in equal measures.

Few Arabs have forgotten that in 1983 he was removed from the Defence Minister's post after an Israeli state commission found him indirectly responsible for the massacre by Lebanese Christian militiamen, then allied to Israel, of hundreds of Palestinian refugees in the camps of Sabra and Shatila.

The radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed from its base in Damascus, the Syrian capital, that the appointment of Mr Sharon revealed the 'bloody policy' of the new Likud administration.

Sharon: tailor-made job for enormous energies

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Hillary, Susan — and baby makes three

At San Francisco City Hall gay couples can exchange solemn vows. All very well, says Giles Whittell, but is it marriage?

The wedding of Susan McCready and Hillary Hurst began with an apology. "This is my first domestic partners ceremony and I am a little nervous," the county clerk said in a thick German accent. "If you don't mind, I will read from the book."

Susan and Hillary seemed nervous, too. Facing each other in the tiny wedding room of San Francisco's City Hall, each clasping a small bouquet as the clerk spoke from her ring-binder about entering into "an intimate and committed relationship of mutual caring", they could hardly stop giggling.

A few minutes later, the mood of the event had changed. By the time the clerk, a matronly widow called Mrs Greenly, invoked the power vested in her by the city and county of San Francisco to declare the women standing before her lifetime partners, Hillary's face was suffused with pink and tears were coursing down her cheeks. Wendy (already "married" to Kerry and an official witness for Susan and Hillary) seemed to speak for all four women when she explained afterwards that the domestic partnership ceremony recently approved for use in San Francisco is "something that, as lesbians, you don't think you're ever going to hear or say".

"It holds more power than straight marriages," says Wendy. "Husband and wife? So what? Lifetime partners is so deep."

With due respect to the formidable Wendy — a restaurateur, filmmaker and priest of the Universal Life Church who calls herself "a full and practising Jewish lesbian" — the power of America's first gay wedding ceremony is subjective at best. It lacks the legal weight of a heterosexual marriage, which is

why city hall officials are not allowed to call it a wedding and visitors who do so are corrected rather sternly.

Nevertheless, to stand before a county official and proclaim undying love for each other in return for a certificate is all the rage among same-sex couples in the nation's unofficial gay capital.

It has been possible only for a few months. In March, fulfilling a campaign promise, the city's new Mayor signed into effect the necessary ordinance for "domestic partnerships", drafted by a lesbian councilor.

Mayor Willie Brown is heterosexual and best-known for being black and fond of fast cars and Italian suits. He is also proudly "gay-friendly" (to be otherwise in San Francisco would be political suicide) and a consummate political showman. Backed by marching bands and the San Francisco Gay Chorus, he officiated in person at the inaugural domestic partners ceremony in March.

It was a minor triumph: 175 couples turned up, cocking a snook at the state assembly's conservative majority. Like many state legislatures, California's is scrambling to outlaw gay marriage out of fear of developments in Hawaii, where the state Supreme Court could give homosexuals full marriage rights very soon. The whole world is watching what Hawaii does.

Because if one state acknowledges our right to marriage, the others have to," says Hillary, who readily admits that what she is doing is partly a political statement.

There is also the little matter of starting a family. Susan, who is 38 and a health education training officer for the city, is eight months pregnant. She conceived by artificial insemination with syringes.

of sperm from an anonymous but suitable donor — sensitive, dark-haired, Jewish, an avid walker and a lover of classical music, according to the handwritten note accompanying the frozen vials. (Choosing was "a bit like shopping for carpet".) It took four attempts at \$175 a try in hospital fees, plus \$125 per vial and an extra \$50 each time to have the sperm "percol washed" for extra swimming power.

"It's complicated, and it's really hard," Susan says. "We were very lucky." She adds that Internet chat rooms in the San Francisco Bay area are full of bulletin-board lists of "infertile lesbians" seeking good sperm and swapping tips on clinics and clinics. These women, apparently, are the footsoldiers of something called the Gayby Boom.

When Kieran Hurst is 18, he — they know he is a boy — will have the option of meeting his biological father. In the meantime, his two mothers are getting hitched. Not that they are coy about having a child out of wedlock. But they resent what they see as the heterosexual establishment wanting it both ways: condemning gay promiscuity with such clampdowns as the closure of San Francisco's public bathhouses in the early 1980s, when they were considered a hotbed of AIDS infection, while claiming a monopoly on family values.

Consider America's 50 per cent divorce rate among traditional couples, Susan suggests. Consider also, says Hillary, that she and Susan have been together for seven-and-a-half years, ever since Susan "came out". Add to the equation their infectious cheerfulness, steady employment and com-



Susan and Hillary tie the knot in a San Francisco ceremony. The city is happy with their new status, the state of California is not

fortable home across the bay in safe-but-vibrant Oakland, and it is hard indeed to see how the Brady Bunch would beat them in a nurturing contest.

But there are practical as well as symbolic reasons for Susan and Hillary to come together like this, on a Friday morning when they could be at work. While not recognised by the state, their domestic partnership lets Hillary sign on to Susan's dental insurance plan. It gives each a spouse's right to hold the other's hand in hospital, even if a doctor would prefer her to be elsewhere, and each the right to

be named as heir and lifetime partner in the other's will.

To cap it all, they are in love — though there will be no honeymoon. There are limits to their conformity. "We did everything in reverse," says Hillary, still pink.

"We had our honeymoon first, then we got pregnant, then we got a joint account and now we're married."

Instead they are heading north to spend the weekend with "a great group of dykes" in Guerneville, a gay mecca on the picturesque Russian River, 90 minutes north of the city. Near by, secreted among redwoods and visited once a year

by an extraordinary all-male collection of international jet-setters, is the Bohemian Grove, part of a San Francisco club founded around the turn of the century by Jack London, among others.

Susan and Hillary seemed destined for a less extravagant but more truly bohemian weekend — a continuation of the journey of self-discovery they began with a kiss back in 1988. That was when Susan decided, after what she describes as a happy heterosexual earlier life, that given the choice she would

rather sleep with women. Hillary had known for years. Now 42, she "came out" aged 19 in New York City. "I was basically a baby dyke of the gay liberation movement," she says, fondly remembering the short hair, big boots and militant zeal of the era. "It was a wonderful, exciting time to be a young lesbian."

And now? She puts it as only a Californian can: "Karmically, I guess the reason I'm a lesbian is to find out more about myself as a woman."

And she now has plenty of time to find out about her lifetime partner, too.

An illness that strikes one in ten

Tell-tale signs of depression

WHEN Sir Edward Heath visited Norwich during his time as Prime Minister, he asked one of his sons, who was then five, if he wanted to be an MP when he was older. My son smiled but replied fiercely: "No. When I grow up I shall be a proper daddy and stay at home."

My son's reply was a revelation as until then I had no idea that my absence at Westminster, midweek while he was at school, made much difference to our family life.

My son's psyche seems to have survived unscathed but Alex Carlile feels that a parliamentary lifestyle may have contributed to his daughter Ruth's persistent depression and may now be hindering her recovery. Mr Carlile has been talking about the effect of an MP's life on children and the influence it has had on his decision not to seek re-election for Montgomery.

He emphasised that whereas most MPs' children were apparently unaffected by their fathers' peripatetic life and long hours in the House, others suffered. Ruth was

on average, every day every GP in the country will see one case. Despite its frequency, 20 per cent of cases of depressive illness are not correctly diagnosed for at least six months, and 50 per cent are probably missed altogether.

Doctors are now much more aware of the standard psychiatric symptoms which herald depressive illness, these have recently been described in the *Practitioner* magazine. Alarm bells will be rung when a patient has obvious feelings of guilt and worthlessness, impaired concentration, loss of energy and fatigue, suicidal thoughts, increased or decreased appetite, is sleepless or so excessively tired that they sleep unusually long hours, or is agitated or inert. The far more difficult cases to spot are those in which a patient seems only to have lost enthusiasm for things previously enjoyed.

Perhaps the greatest handicap of all to early diagnosis is somatisation. This is a medical term for the over-emphasis of various symptoms such as muscle weakness, aches and pains, headaches, back aches, nausea and dizzy spells by depressed patients. Doctors have still to persuade many patients that physical problems can have a psychiatric cause. GPs must always be on the alert and investigate symptoms in case they represent physical disease but they must fail to detect the underlying mental state which is causing the trouble.

DISCUSSION, cognitive therapy — a form of behavioural therapy in which patients are taught to correct various errors they have in the way they think of themselves and life around them — and in many cases medication allow most people with depressive illnesses to lead normal lives.

Mr Carlile made the point that as well as the obvious psychiatric and behavioural problems which could result from having an absent parent — which had been noted in other Members' children — there was a more subtle danger. Children who have an unusual home life were particularly vulnerable to youth-targeted campaigns, which could wreak havoc by distorting immature thought when the young person was unsupported by the realism and experience provided by the presence of both parents.

Ruth Carlile is fortunate that she has such a considerate and enlightened family who freely admit that she is depressed, see no stigma in having an illness of this type and have made every effort to seek out the best treatment.

She is not alone; one in ten people will at some time in their life become depressed, enough people to ensure that,

MEDIA
Tomorrow in *The Times* Andrew Jaspan, former Editor of *The Observer* gives his verdict on the paper's new look

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OPEN LETTER TO A CARING COMMUNITY

There seems to be so much unavoidable suffering in the world. We appeal for your support to reduce avoidable suffering.

We aim to raise funds to advance scientific research into pre-natal and post-natal experience. This research is needed to identify areas of harm or benefit to unborn and premature babies, including above all the question of pain and its alleviation.

This information becomes increasingly relevant as medical ability to operate advances. Invasive surgical techniques in the womb including termination (20,000 fetuses are terminated annually in the UK after 13 weeks), life saving about insertions (where fluid is drained from the baby), blood transfusions, keyhole surgery (where the baby is operated on whilst still in the womb) and routine tests such as amniocentesis are all currently performed with no pain relief for the pre-born.

It was discovered ten years ago that premature babies who need surgery also need anaesthetics. The survival rate was found to increase dramatically when deep anaesthesia was administered. Further research is now needed to enable doctors to provide improved control of suffering.

The right to ban cruelty to animals is being established. This right should apply equally to avoidable human suffering. A recent report by a research specialist in the *Lancet* adds to the evidence of pre-natal distress and recommends anaesthetics to minimise it.

All can unite with our appeal for the new-born and pre-born to be protected from pain. But research is needed to determine HOW pain relief can be provided. We aim to raise funds for the few research centres working to achieve this.

We also call for increased research into pre-natal influences and their long term consequences. This is urgently required. More information is needed on measures which help to build healthy babies. Research is equally needed to identify influences in the prenatal environment which may cause illness later on in life.

Will you support our work for these and other priorities which will ensure Women and Children's welfare?

A public fund-raising appeal has been launched. It is endorsed by community leaders. The following are already Co-Concerned:

Jane Asher, Joan Bakewell, Floella Benjamin, Charlotte Black, Dr A Book, Dr B J Collett, Shirley Courtenay, Margaret Cooper OBE, The Baroness Cox, Tessa Dahl, Andrea Sykes, The Baroness Flather, Dr A W Franklin, Lynne Franks, Joyce Hockley, Barbara Hosking OBE, Joanna Lumley, Jane Mendez, Revd Canon W B Norman, Sari Parkin, Betty Parsons MBE, Dr J Paterson Brown CBE, Sir John Peel KCVO FRCOG, Sybil Phoenix MBE, Sir George Plisher KCVO FRCOG, Rosalind Preston OBE, Carol Rees, Jennifer Saunders, Patricia Scotland QC, Countess of St Andrews, The Very Rev. Prof. T Torrance FRSE, Dorothy Tait CBE.

Women and Children's Welfare Fund Trustees: Hugh van Cutsem, Lady Lothian, The Earl of Perth, The Marchioness of Salisbury.

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24/7 1500

Mandela's medicine is working

We won't succumb to 'African syndrome', says Denis Worrall

President Nelson Mandela's state visit to Britain, which begins today, is a personal triumph for a man who has played a vital role in one of the more successful political transitions of the 20th century. In honouring him, the British deserve a good share of the credit for bringing about the "new" South Africa, and in particular for the Thatcher-Hoxie policy of the 1980s.

A lot of British and American comment on South Africa — which inevitably affects business attitudes — is based on "the African syndrome", which assumes that now blacks rule the country, it will inevitably go the way of much of the rest of the continent. How else can one explain the persistent fallacy that the country will fall apart because of Zulu claims to independence — when the argument is as much between Zulu and Zulu as between Inkatha and the ANC?

But South Africa, whether Afrikaner or black, is different from the rest of the continent. First, it is economically far more developed than any other state on the continent: it has a larger middle class, a more urban population and bigger non-African minorities. Secondly, it has stronger traditions of parliamentary government, and much older political parties (the ANC goes back to 1912).

Thirdly, a common feature of African single-party systems has been the long tenure of office of "heroic founding leaders" — including Kenyatta, Kaunda, Banda and Nyerere. Given Mandela's determination to retire in 1999, the country will be spared this form of political sclerosis. Finally, civil society — the web of associations and institutions which exist independently of the state — is more highly developed in South Africa.

For the first time, South Africa has a Government elected democratically on a nationwide basis. Although the ANC is by far the dominant party, and will continue so for years to come, the 1994 election established a multi-party system. The emergence of three major parties — the ANC, the National Party and the Inkatha Freedom Party — will encourage future elections based on healthy party competition. The Western Cape is run by the National Party, while KwaZulu/Natal is run by Inkatha, and these important provinces are important checks on single-party domination at all levels.

The ANC's commitment to inclusive South African nationhood is deeply ingrained, and it has successfully fought off proponents of narrow "Afrikanism". For a time it looked as though the Pan-African Congress would be a formidable rival to the ANC, but its disastrous performance in the elections of 1994 and 1995 suggest that it is a spent force. Aside from giving comfort to whites and other minorities, the ANC's approach to nation-building has also helped to marginalise the white right wing. The Government of

National Unity, which emerged from the 1994 election, has produced a new "centre".

South Africa's political centre now consists of all the parties in Parliament, with the exception of the Pan-African Congress. F.W. de Klerk, as leader of the National Party, has greatly assisted this.

The change of regime in April 1994 generated substantial expectations of future material and social benefits among first-time voters. The Government's reconstruction and development programme is designed to address these, and it has been adopted by all parties in Parliament.

After years of minimal or even negative growth, the economy grew by 3 per cent in 1995, fixed investment was up 6.5 per cent; exports were up 20 per cent and inflation was lower than it had been since 1972. This reflects increased business confidence at home and greatly expanded international involvement — notably from South-East Asia. (The single biggest foreign investment in South Africa's history was recently made by a Malaysian company.)

Economic policy is characterised by a surprising pragmatism. Favouring "market-friendly" policies, the Government has begun phasing out exchange controls, has drastically reduced import tariffs, and will shortly begin to privatise. The unions strongly oppose all these measures, but the ANC will take them on and beat them — less by direct confrontation than by flanking manoeuvres.

South African business is happy with the direction of policy; its main reservations relate to the lack of detail and the pace of implementation, but a new strategy is now in place. Generating jobs is critical to the wellbeing of the country's new democracy. The strategy aims at 6 per cent growth and the creation of 400,000 jobs per annum on average by the year 2000. This is a big challenge — and the formal sector is expected to produce no more than 2 per cent of new jobs in 1996.

In their recent report, *Investing in South Africa: The Opporunities and the Political Risks*, Professor David Welsh and Vuyo Bavuma are cautiously optimistic. According to them, social and economic delivery has picked up in 1996, and they forecast an acceleration before the election in 1999.

The South Africa that Mr Mandela will be representing in London is a much better place to live for the great majority of its inhabitants, but also a country with problems.

These include the inherited distortions in education, housing and welfare, and high levels of crime. Events such as the trial of former Defence Minister Magnus Malan and ex-security chiefs will cause their own stresses. But what cannot be faulted is the standard of political leadership that the country has produced.

The author was South African Ambassador in London from 1984 to 1987.

Elan, Alan?

AN AIR of despondency is settling over Saltwood Castle in Kent, the fortified home of Alan Clark, distinguished military historian, ageing newspaper columnist and once and would-be MP. Yet another constituency has rejected the 68-year-old diarist as its Tory candidate.

After he fell recently at the third round in the Kensington and Chelsea selection process, Clark's modest curriculum vitae plumped onto the mat of the North Dorset Conservative Association. Prominently displayed are words from the *Daily Mail* columnist Linda Lee-Potter: "Any constituency selection committee should approach him immediately. Because the Tories are desperately going to need politicians with style, boldness and clout."

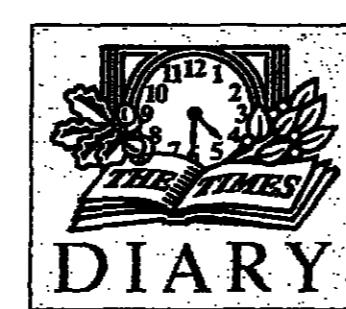
He lists his pros (experience, happy family, lack of sleaze) as well as his cons (age, "colourful" past private life, reputation for "reckless candour"). But sadly the officials have decided that the man who wrote in his diary of the "vast arse" of neighbouring MP Janet Fookes, of being drunk at the disputation box and of the ghastly detail of constituency work is not for

them. "He is no longer being considered at this stage," remarked a pained officer.

Clark refuses, however, to be defeated. "I don't think I am a has-been," he said. "I shall put in for Hove and for Tunbridge Wells."

• Extraordinary developments at Madame Tussauds. The hair on the waxwork of Adolf Hitler is growing, according to the make-up

artist. "And Brenda, you're down for Ted Heath's birthday."



Exposes

ADVICE for the Wimbledon streaker from Erika Roe, whose topless run at Twickenham in 1982 set the standard in exhibitionism: "Rugger fields are more fun."

Bathycolpian Erika watched on television in her home in Portugal as Melissa Johnson skylarked, naked but for a pinny, on Centre Court. "I'd like to meet her for a beer and I'd tell her to try Cardiff Arms Park next," she said. "Wimbledon crowds are a stuffy, strawberry-munching lot; it wouldn't inspire me to streak. But Melissa

chose a good moment: she caught the boys' attention. She should get an agent." I'm told that Kodak is already talking TV commercials. Slogan, "Maximum exposure".

• Import export

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY'S decision to refuse an export licence for the St Thomas à Becket casket may not kindly concern the man who is said to have bought it, the Canadian millionaire David Thomson, son of Lord Thomson of Fleet. He has made a tidy profit out of export licences before.

In 1986, Thomson, who owns some 100 works by Constable, bought the Middleham Jewel, the most important piece of medieval jewellery ever found in England. He paid £1.4 million at auction.

He applied to export it in 1991, by which time he claimed the value had increased to £3 million, and a restriction order was imposed. The Government brought in independent valuers, raised some cash, and Thomson agreed to sell the jewel to the country for £2.5 million, a profit of £1.1 million.

• Ken Livingstone has always had a Fink-Nottleish admiration for the new, but his portfolio has now been broadened. He has just accepted a position as patron of



Durand's vision of the Princes. Now it's Charles's turn to giggle

Hedgehog Care Sanctuary

which cares for sick and orphaned hedgehogs. His garden is already bristling with several rehabilitated hedgehogs, many of them amputees.

Brushing up

FURTHER indignity has befallen the Royal Family. André Durand, portrait painter extraordinaire, whose dashing depiction of the Prince of Wales and his young sons astride a snorting steed had art critics dropping their canapés, has taken up his brushes again.

Clinton, jobs and Keynes Anatole Kaletsky explains the American miracle

Last Friday the American Government announced that unemployment in America had fallen to 5.3 per cent, its lowest level since the peak of the 1980s boom. Despite the seemingly unemployable underclass, the United States now has a far higher proportion of its population in gainful employment than any other G7 country, as well as being the only major industrial country which can boast that more of its people have jobs today than had in the golden age of Keynesian economics, 30 years ago. And despite the "downsizing" of its great corporations, America has created over 10 million new jobs since Bill Clinton became President in 1992.

Mr Clinton is not shy of claiming credit for the economic miracle: "We have the most solid American economy in a generation," he declared after the job figures came out. "We promised to take the economic challenges head on. Our critics said it wouldn't work. Today's news once again proved them wrong."

The ideological Right has long seen America, even under the Democrats, as a bastion of free-market values. But Clintonomics now also has an appeal to new Labour. Peter Riddell explained on this page yesterday why Labour has been fired up by Mr Clinton's successes: "The architects of President Clinton's economic policies stress social benefits, work incentives and skills training, which Mr Brown views as more important than traditional debates about the level of the exchange rate." Before they get carried away, though, fans of the fashionable American model should consider what, and who, has really been responsible for this exemplary record of job creation and growth.

Why is America now doing as well as it was in the 1960s, while Europe is languishing in its worst depression since 1945? Desirable though Mr Clinton's training programmes may be for social reasons, they could hardly have transformed the skills of the workforce in four years. So is America's miracle caused, on the contrary, by low taxes and deregulated markets? If that were the case, America would now be slowing down relative to Europe, as the Democrats raise taxes and impose more regulations, rather than racing further ahead.

Experience shows that governments can do little to accelerate the growth of an economy through so-called "supply-side" measures. Capitalism can adapt to all kinds of different social and regulatory conditions, but such evolution takes decades or even generations. What governments can do is reduce a market economy's natural propensity for investment, job creation and growth. One way of stunting the economy is obviously with the excessive taxes and regulations denounced by the Right. But another sure way to do damage is by mismanaging the growth of demand — and it is in demand management, rather than supply-side, policy that the real contrast between America and Europe is now found.

The main credit for America's economic success in the 1990s should go not to Mr Clinton or his White House advisers, but to Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, who has achieved something that was widely dismissed as impossible a few years ago: he has revived the art of economic fine-tuning, which seemed to have been lost after the global inflationary crises of the 1970s.

Since he arrived at the Fed in 1987, Mr Greenspan has used dozens of quarter-point corrections to interest rates to manage demand in the economy with remarkable precision, and has maintained low inflation and high employment. Even his one serious blunder — his failure to calibrate monetary policy to offset the depressing impact of the Gulf War — created only the briefest and least damaging of recessions, though it was bad enough to help lose George Bush the presidency.

Since 1992, Mr Greenspan has kept the economy on the narrow path between inflation and unemployment, consistently astonishing the financial markets, and especially young economic analysts with no personal experience of the long-term stability and rapid growth of the 1950s and 1960s. As a result, Wall Street keeps swinging comically from fears about recession to panic about inflation. The latest such lurch came after the employment figures last week, but Mr Greenspan and his colleagues at the Fed remain unperturbed.

In Europe, meanwhile, interest rates have been set by the whims of financial markets and the Bundesbank's monetarist dogma that the sole job of a central bank is to keep inflation under control. As a result, Europe has lurched from recession to inflation and back again. This points to the true lesson of the American economic experience: Mr Clinton's greatest contribution to his country's performance has been to appoint the Fed a group of able and pragmatic economists of contrasting theoretical persuasions who have one thing in common. They all understand that governments and central banks must do more than control inflation; to allow full employment and adequate economic growth, they must also try to manage demand.

P.H.S

Clinton,
jobs and
Keynes
Anatole Kaletsky



MANDELA'S MISSION

South Africa is a good bet for British business

Few official visits by a head of state have attracted the interest that will be evident when President Nelson Mandela begins his tour today. From Buckingham Palace to Brixton market, this will be an unusual diplomatic exercise. While much of what is planned is a reflection of Mr Mandela's unique and inspiring story, the whole range of shared interests that connect this country with South Africa will be on display.

Mr Mandela will doubtless be courteous about the many compliments that will be paid this week. He has come, however, to attract commerce, not compliments. Between all the colourful festivities will be a hard-headed hard-sell. The President is accompanied by a delegation of more than one hundred industrialists. He will hold talks at the Bank of England and attend a one-day conference on inward investment to his country sponsored by the Confederation of British Industry. This effort is encouraged by the existing range of economic ties. Britain is the single largest investor in South Africa. Mr Mandela would like this role extended further.

Contracts should be taken on cool analysis rather than any short-term sentiment generated by this trip. But how exactly such evaluation should be drawn has produced diverse interpretations, a debate which has been seen across our pages in recent days. The variation in comment reflects an uncertainty over how and with what the country should be compared.

South Africa is both First World and Third World: the former in much of its capitalist structure, the latter in terms of the income-levels of its rural poor. The sanguine judge it by the standards of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and note many areas — crime, education, and infrastructure — where improvements are urgent. Others, using the yardstick of the Organisation for

African Unity (OAU), claim that South Africa is already a shining example.

There is a similar diversity in discussion on Mr Mandela personally. While all agree that he is extraordinarily popular, there is dissent over how well he has invested his political capital. R. W. Johnson, writing here yesterday, was concerned about a certain conservatism caused by Mr Mandela's commitment to national reconciliation. Dennis Worrall, in *The Times* today, implies that it is precisely this devotion to multiracial relations that is the necessary platform for future radical reform.

It would be highly uncharitable not to acknowledge the striking progress that South Africa has made. The ANC inherited an economy, distorted by the apartheid era, that was oddly socialist in many of its aspects. The new Government of National Unity started with somewhat starry-eyed commitment to state spending embodied in the Reconstruction and Development Plan. Two years on, the agenda is rather different and more realistic.

Policy is devoted to internal fiscal stability and international investment opinion. Last month the Johannesburg stock exchange, the tenth largest globally by market capitalisation, was substantially deregulated. The Government's new statement of economic objectives backed lower tariffs and eased exchange controls. Privatisation, while overdue, is at least now being discussed in terms of practical execution rather than principle. Tentative steps towards contentious but crucial labour market reforms are now being undertaken.

Mr Mandela is entitled to a good hearing from British business this week — not out of nostalgia or charity but because the risks merit it. Britain's already entrenched status in South Africa is to the intense benefit of this country. Additional links would be most welcome.

AIR WARS

Customers are better served by competition than combination

Tomorrow the House of Commons' Select Committee on Transport will hear evidence from adversaries in what promises to be one of the more epic battles of the skies. British Airways' all-but-merger with American Airlines is already being investigated by the Office of Fair Trading and the European Commission. The US Justice Department yesterday demanded from Virgin Atlantic all its papers on BA's alleged anti-competitive practices. This show could go on and on.

MPs will hear diametrically opposed evidence from BA and Virgin. The national carrier will claim that, if the link-up is allowed, fares will fall, the skies will open (to competition, not precipitation) and consumers will benefit from a streamlined service. Virgin will argue that BA's monopoly position will be strengthened, competition will be stifled and the passengers will suffer. Which is right?

British Airways, in combination with American, would have a transatlantic share of more than 60 per cent, with 94 per cent of flights to Chicago and 100 per cent of flights to Dallas. Although the alliance would save its partners money on ticketing and baggage-handling, would those savings be passed on to passengers? The strength of BA's share price suggests some doubt about that. So does evidence from other airline alliances: the link formed in 1993 between KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Northwest Airlines has brought fare rises between Detroit and Amsterdam, their primary hubs, of nearly 40 per cent in two years.

British Airways has improved its services enormously since privatisation. But it cannot claim to have a pure record in its dealings with competitors. Virgin has pro-

duced a mass of persuasive evidence showing the "dirty tricks" that British Airways has used to entice passengers on to its planes. If it shared its business with American, it would be able to offer more inducements to corporate customers to favour BA/American over other airlines.

Claims that this code-sharing would be in passengers' interests are further undermined by their opposition to other airlines' similar tie-ups in the past. Robert Crandall, American's chairman, described code-sharing last year as "profoundly anti-competitive". He went on: "When airlines team up and code-share, they are able, by means of pretending to be single carrier, to force other, non-combined carriers out of a market. When this happens... consumers lose all the many benefits of competition." Robert Aylng, meanwhile, BA's chief executive, opposed Lufthansa's similar partnership with United on the ground that it would reduce competition.

BA is likely to offer the US Justice Department "open skies" over Britain in return for this merger being allowed to go ahead. But allowing more American airlines to fly to this country is no use unless they are also given landing slots at Heathrow. Thirty-eight per cent of these are in BA's hands and are unlikely to be relinquished.

The threat of a pilots' strike on all British Airways flights next week should concentrate the minds of those who claim that the proposed merger would be in consumers' interests. Imagine if more than half the transatlantic flights were grounded by such action. Virgin has every reason to complain: passengers are best served by competition, not cartels.

BRING BACON HOME

The art world continues to neglect our native genius

When Francis Bacon died four years ago the obituaries were unanimous. Here was a painter of towering individuality, one of the greatest that this country has ever produced. Since then, interest in his harrowing but mesmerising canvases has, if anything, increased: witness the extraordinary excitement and the passion of the subsequent critical debate over the discovery in February of a supposed early self-portrait by the artist.

So it is disappointing, to say the least, that Paris rather than London should have seized the initiative and mounted the first large-scale retrospective of Bacon's work since his death. As our chief art critic reports today, the show curated by the art historian David Sylvester at the Pompidou Centre is an immensely powerful summary of 95 of Bacon's greatest works. They have been borrowed from collections around the world (including several from the Tate in London), and range across the whole of Bacon's dark and lonely adult existence — from an extraordinary Crucifixion, painted when he was 24, to the sequence of grieving triptychs that he created late in life.

This remarkable show remains in Paris until October; then it travels to Munich. Britain will not have it. Britons must either travel abroad or make do with a small complementary exhibition in Norwich. Bacon portraits from the Sainsbury collection. Though welcome and useful, it scarcely counts as an alternative.

Bacon's reputation remains high on the

Continent; that should be a matter of pride in this country. We have sat back and allowed other nations to take the lead in celebrating his genius; that should be a cause of regret.

When the Vermeer exhibition was seen in Holland but not in Britain, and the Matisse exhibition was put on show in Paris but not in London, we could at least offer ourselves the consolation that these artists were being displayed in countries from which they drew inspiration. But Bacon was a Londoner through and through, as closely associated with the *demi-monde* of Soho as Toulouse-Lautrec was with Montmartre or Cézanne with Provence.

London's galleries may argue that only 11 years have passed since the Tate mounted a magnificent show of 124 Bacons. They may also point to plans to put Bacon's triptychs on show at the Hayward Gallery. But when the foremost British painter of the century dies, those who lead our artistic life have a special duty to mark his achievement in a fitting and monumental manner. They have signally failed to do that here, and British exhibition-goers are the losers.

Coming so soon after the luke-warm and tardy attempt to keep the Becker casket in Britain, this latest instance of art-institution apathy is unwelcome. To lose one superb piece of national heritage in a month may be regarded as a misfortune. To be beaten into third place when it comes to celebrating a modern British genius suggests that a sharp wake-up call is needed.

Bacon's reputation remains high on the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN · Telephone 0171-782 5000

Dr Carey's views on dangers of moral relativism

From Mr D. A. Cameron

Sir, Congratulations to the Archbishop of Canterbury for (at long last) giving us some positive and sorely-needed advice and guidance on moral matters (report, July 6). Any step in the right direction is welcome.

By contrast, Simon Jenkins's sardonic banner ("No more feel-good factor", July 6) makes scarcely a single constructive suggestion.

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. CAMERON,
Little Buckstep, Dallington,
Heathfield, East Sussex.
July 6.

From Mr Nicholas Page-Brown

Sir, It is ridiculous for Simon Jenkins to claim that "values are moral choices, to be made by free citizens, after due debate". No civilised society can function without universal acceptance that stealing, killing and cheating is wrong.

The average hooligan does not sit around reviewing his moral opinions — he considers the likelihood of being caught and the potential severity of any punishment he will receive. The efforts of some commentators to sustain the view that moral values are a matter for the individual and that legitimate authority should be constantly challenged are well overdue for re-buff.

The Archbishop's speech will provide some reassurance for those frightened citizens who know evil when they see it but who have had to pay the price for allowing sections of the chattering classes the privilege of deciding that good and bad are no more than matters of opinion.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS PAGE-BROWN,
Flat 43, 35 Hollywood Road, SW10.
July 6.

From the Principal of Emmanuel College, Gateshead

Sir, I welcome Dr Carey's speech. The Judeo-Christian framework of morality is a highly positive one both for the individual and society. Of course it cannot be imposed. It can, however, be presented positively and argued for.

A school with a clear spiritual and moral ethos and which distinguishes right from wrong has an influence well beyond itself. Such schools are valued by parents and are often over-subscribed.

My concern is that many schools do not give this guidance, and settle for a relativistic and subjective substitute under the name of personal and social education. We fail our children if we

Homosexual rights

From Sir Ian McKellen

Sir, As the nation hails President Mandela, British lesbians and gay men have particular reason to welcome him. On May 8, with his personal support, the South African Parliament voted overwhelmingly for their new Constitution, which prohibits discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation.

South Africans have, of course, paid dearly for their new freedoms. Their unique initiative shames our own politicians, whether in government or opposition, who maintain those British laws which continue to treat lesbians and gay men as second-class citizens.

Yours ever,
IAN MCKELLEN,
c/o Stonewall,
16 Clerkenwell Close, EC1.
July 8.

do not give them the opportunity to understand the reason for biblical morality as a proper basis for healthy living.

I would, however, urge Dr Carey to argue his case more persuasively within the Church itself. Too often the attempts of schools are undermined by the pronouncements of modernistic bishops or church working groups who seem to have absorbed the very relativism which Dr Carey so rightly attacks.

Yours faithfully,
J. BURN,
Principal, Emmanuel College,
Consett Road, Lobley Hill,
Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.
July 6.

From Professor L. D. Barron, FRSE

Sir, In his interesting article on morality ("Therapy instead of morality", July 5), Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, suggests that the moral values underpinning the Judeo-Christian tradition stand in radical opposition to today's scientific-therapeutic culture, which seeks to eliminate morality from public discourse. I cannot speak for therapy, but I can say that the discussion of morality certainly falls within the realm of science.

Science views humans as part of the natural world, with their physical and behavioural development controlled by the laws of biology no less than that of fruit flies. The traditions, feelings, scruples and reluctances which underpin morality in general, and breeding rules in particular, are behavioural attributes acquired under the intense pressures of Darwinian natural selection over tens of thousands of years of human social development.

Scientists subscribing to what we call moral behaviour have enjoyed a tremendous selective advantage of competition with more barbaric and promiscuous societies. This reveals a scientific basis for the importance of religion in the development of advanced societies; indeed, in his book *The Evolution of Man and Society* (Allen & Unwin, 1969), C. D. Darlington makes a compelling case for the crucial role played by the moral code carried within Judaism and Christianity in the rise of Western civilisation. Beneath its public face of belief and ritual, the hidden agenda of religion is survival.

The decline in morality that our religious leaders and others are now debating appears to be due in part to the prosperity and stability of the modern industrial world, in which breeding rules designed to preserve the primacy of the family are no longer essential for the survival of large populations, even though individuals brought up in a traditional family are

planning the policy to colleagues with known defence interests. They have responded to suggestions positively and have made two changes to the initial policy in order to meet our major concerns (adding the ministerial veto to the 25-year development option and making equivalent employment opportunities for families one of the criteria for any site exchange (report, later editions, July 2)).

The sale of married quarters was bound to be questioned by service families and I, with others, spoke to ministers at the MoD about our main concern, which was that the interests of servicemen and women should be properly protected. I am entirely satisfied that they are now and will be in the future.

Michael Portillo and James Arbuthnot have spent a great deal of time ex-

plaining the policy to colleagues with known defence interests. They have responded to suggestions positively and have made two changes to the initial policy in order to meet our major concerns (adding the ministerial veto to the 25-year development option and making equivalent employment opportunities for families one of the criteria for any site exchange (report, later editions, July 2)).

I now believe it would be absolutely detrimental to the interests of service families to block this sale. Not only would the additional £100 million for refurbishing homes be lost, but resources would continue to be wasted on the upkeep of unwanted properties which the MoD has so far been unable to shift.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES SPICER,
House of Commons.

Labour's driving plan

From the Shadow Minister for Transport

Sir, What is perhaps surprising about the article, "Where eight-year-olds get L-plates" (Car, June 29), supporting driver training for children as young as ten, is not that children this young are being put behind the wheel of a large car, but that we leave all formal transport and driver education until people reach 17. The education is then crammed into a few months before the test, after which the driver is declared fully qualified.

The next Labour government will end the status of the test as a simple rite of passage, ensuring that people are capable of driving safely before they are allowed on to the road. The Government has finally introduced a theory test (report, July 2), yet unbelievably has no plans to monitor its ef-

fect on road safety. It is vital to assess these effects if changes are to be made.

Education can provide both long-term and short-term improvements to road safety. We will seek to do this through a more rigorous driving and road-use education both in and out of the classroom.

Labour will endeavour, under environmental education, to encourage children to consider when it is appropriate to use different modes of transport from rail to buses, cycles to cars. They should learn the wider consequences of their choices as they affect the environment and other road users.

Similarly, the dangers of speed, of driving in poor weather or in polluted urban areas need to be addressed.

Yours sincerely,

GRAHAM ALLEN,
House of Commons.

Judges' training

From Mr Derek A. Hill

Sir, In your report, "Judges get lessons in gender awareness" (later editions, June 21), you referred to courses in human awareness run by the Judicial Studies Board. These formed only part of our regular programme of residential courses for circuit judges, recorders, assistant recorders, district judges and stipendiary magistrates, which cover many other subjects.

The four 90-minute sessions on human awareness we have had to date aimed to show how to avoid preconceptions about individuals because of race or gender.

The JSB is considering how human

awareness might be included in judicial training in the long term, but no

still likely to be more successful.

The pressures of natural selection will determine whether or not morality can reassess itself in future generations.

Yours sincerely,
L. D. BARRON,
31 Newtonlea Avenue,
Newton Mearns, Glasgow.
July 7.

From Mr J. W. G. Wilson

Sir, Practical morality is a question for the law, an efficient police force and a swift judiciary. Teaching theoretical morality outside the home and church is a waste of public resources.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. G. WILSON,
Anchor Cottage,
Turnchapel, Plymouth, Devon.
July 6.

From the Reverend Father Francis A. C. S. Bown

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury chose to launch his call for moral education in the Lords, which is unique among the parliamentary chambers of democratic states in still having a body of members present by virtue of a prescriptive right enjoyed by their religion.

The position of the 26 Lords Spiritual gives the Church of England the opportunity to exercise significant influence over the moral tone and content of our laws. Sadly, this opportunity is seldom used to effect.

Most Christians in this country would agree that two aspects of the moral crisis in our nation require urgent attention: the undermining of the institution of marriage and the lack of respect for human life.

Will Dr Carey therefore now lead his episcopal colleagues in the House of Lords in a disciplined and determined campaign to reverse the laws on easy divorce and abortion? Such determined action would be far more beneficial for our moral health than the occasional pious exhortation.

Yours sincerely,
CLARE LATIMER,
Clare's Kitchen Ltd,
41 Chalcot Road, Primrose Hill, NW1.
July 4.

Bringing to light a stammerer's pain

From Ms Clare Latimer

Sir, How very refreshing to see Jonathan Miller's interview (Body and Mind, July 4) about his stammer. Word for



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 8: The Duke of Edinburgh, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, this morning visited Royal Air Force Cosford, Wolverhampton, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire (Mr Algernon Heber-Percy).

HIS MAJESTY, Honorary Fellow, the Institute of Sports Medicine, this evening presented The Prince Philip Medal in Sports Medicine and attended a dinner at St James's Palace.

The Lord Camoys (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening upon the arrival of the President of the Republic of South Africa and welcomed The President on behalf of The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 8: The Princess Royal this morning opened the new Institute of Engineering, Surveying and Space Geodesy building at the University of Nottingham and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire (Sir Andrew Buchanan, Bt).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the new Mansfield Magistrates' Court at Mansfield Court House, Rosemary Street, Mansfield.

The Princess Royal later attended the awards day at Royal College of Nursing, London, Mansfield.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, this evening attended the Race Meeting and Fund-raising Dinner at Windsor Racecourse and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr Philip Wrentham).

CLARENCE HOUSE
July 8: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, a former skipper, disembarked from H M Yacht Britannia at Portsmouth and returned to London.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will host the launch of Roots of the Future publication and exhibition portraying ethnic diversity in the making of Britain at St James's Palace at 3.30. The Princess Royal, as Patron of BT Global Challenge, will name a yacht taking part in The World's Toughest Yacht Race at St Katharine's Dock, El, at 3.45. Princess Alexandra will open the Centenary Building of the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, at 11.00; and as Chancellor, will preside at ceremonies for the conferment of degrees and honorary degrees at Lancaster University at 12.25.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guards mount at Horse Guards at 11.00. The Queen's Guard will mount at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

Meeting

Royal Overseas League
Dr Jessie McLean was the guest speaker at the final meeting of the summer session of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Overseas League held last night at Over Seas House, St James's. Mrs Mairi Radcliff presided.

Birthdays today

The King of Morocco celebrates his 67th birthday today.

Mr John Ainsley, tenor, 33; Mr Peter Balfour, former chairman, Charterhouse, 78; Sir Phillip Bridges, former Chief Justice of The Garcia, 74; Dame Barbara Cartland, author, 85; Mrs J.S.R. Dawkins, Headmaster, Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby, St. Mtn Ben de Haan, racehorse trainer, 36; Mr. Richard Denman, watercolourist, 66; Sir George Edwards, OM, former chairman, BAC, 88; the Earl of Erne, 59; Mr Eric Halliday, former Principal, St Chad's College, Durham.

The Lady Grimthorpe, Sir Alastair Aird and Major Charles MacEwan were in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 8: The Prince of Wales, given a sword and a dinner jacket by the Hon Nicholas Soames MP (Minister of State for the Armed Forces) and Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge (Chief of the Defence Staff) for Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said of Oman at Apysse House, London W1.

His Royal Highness later visited the Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts Department exhibited by students. The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture at the Rebeca Hossack Gallery, Windmill Street, London W1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 8: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, the Lord Provost of Cork Society, this evening attended a Reception at 10 Downing Street, Whitehall, London SW1, in aid of the Peter May Memorial Appeal.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 8: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, the Fund for the Blind of Laski, this evening attended a recital and reception, at the Polish Embassy, Portland Place, London W1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK
July 8: Princess Alexandra, Chancellor, this afternoon presided at congregations for the confirmation of Degrees at Lancaster University.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Major Edward Cross to be one of Her Majesty's bodyguards in the Household Corps of Gentlemen at Arms in succession to Captain the Lord Monteagle of Brandon.

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Appointments

Mr Andrew Bache to be Ambassador to Denmark in succession to Mr Hugh Arbutnott who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Mr Justice Morison to be President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal from October 1, in succession to Mr Justice Mummery.

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AFGHAN - On June 30th at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, to Huzza and Anna, a son and daughter, a son, Jonathan, a son of Daniel and Anna.

ALLEN - On June 20th, at Greenwich Hospital, Connecticut, to Kim and Tracy, a daughter, Cleo, and to Michael and Victoria (Ski), a sister for Lucy.

LAMBERT - On July 4th, 1996, in Hong Kong, to Tom and Anna, a son, James, and a sister, Kristen. Jake Frederic, a brother for Charlie, Luke and Ben.

LEWIS - On July 4th, to Pamela (née Priddle) and Michael, a son, Daniel, a daughter for Alexander and Beatrice.

LOPEZ STANLIE - Patricia Lopez, on July 6th at The Portland Hospital, London, to Charles and Victoria, a son, a daughter for Charlie and Kristin.

MCNAUL - On July 6th to Francesca (née Beckwith) and Simon, a daughter, a daughter, Cecilia Rose.

COOK/PLUMMER - On 3rd July 1996, at The Portland Hospital, London, to Richard and Richard, a son, William Henry.

CROWDER - On July 4th, 1996, at 1.20 pm at St. Mary's Hospital, London, to Judith and Robert, a daughter, Eleanor Anne, a sister to Cecilia.

FRANCIS - On June 26th 1996, to Victoria (née Cook) and Jonathan, a daughter, Sophie Victoria.

GARRETT - On July 6th to Judie and Robert, a daughter, Eleanor Anne, a sister to Cecilia.

GRAY - On 30th June, to Samantha (née Wimper) and Robert, a beautiful daughter, Melodie Lois, a sister for Marcus Joseph. Deo Gratias.

FRENCH - On June 26th 1996, to Victoria (née Cook) and Jonathan, a daughter, Sophie Victoria.

GARRETT - On July 6th to Judie and Robert, a daughter, Eleanor Anne, a sister to Cecilia.

SCOTT-GATTY - On June 28th, to Sue (née Hayman) and James, a son, Jack and a daughter, Georgina Amy.

NEWMAN - On July 3rd 1996, to Giselle, a son, Charles and Richard, a son Orlando George.

SAMEN - On June 30th at The Portland Hospital to Katrina (née Kestic) and Paul, a daughter, Edie Bell, weighed in at 7 lbs 10z. August 1996.

FREIGHTS - On June 26th 1996, to Victoria (née Cook) and Jonathan, a daughter, Sophie Victoria.

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SCOTT-GATTY - On June 28th, to Sue (née Hayman) and James, a son, Jack and a daughter, Georgina Amy.

DEWRE - On July 6th, peacefully at Normandy Nursing Home, Poole. Eric Charles Dewre O.B.E. aged 86, beloved husband of the late Dorothy, much loved father of Gillian and June. Funeral service to be held at Poole Crematorium on Friday 12th July at 2.30pm. Flowers or donations if preferred for the Alzheimers Society of Dorset. Tel: 01202 873207.

BARNETT - Marjorie (Tilly) nee Sing, formerly of the BBC and The Times, beloved mother and grandmother, died suddenly and peacefully on 6th July 1996, aged 90. Cudders Green Crematorium on 12th July, family flowers or donations if preferred to the Alzheimers Society of Dorset. Tel: 01202 323426. Parkstone Road, Poole. Tel: 01202 873207.

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Now small companies can join health kick

By BRIAN COLLETT

HEALTH consciousness in small businesses is to be promoted by a group originally formed for large companies and organisations.

The decision by the Wellness Forum to widen its programme has coincided with a government initiative to stimulate health awareness in small businesses.

The forum, whose members include Glaxo Wellcome, Marks & Spencer and Prudential, follows the Health of the Nation suggestion that the workplace gives an ideal opportunity to put across health messages. Its first aim was to share good health practices among its members, and themes have included stress, nutrition, musculo-skeletal problems and alcohol abuse. It has now created its Workplace Health Advisory Team to bring small and medium-sized businesses into the programme. A forum spokesman said: "These organisations have little idea of what to do and little or no resources of their own."

At the same time, the Government has given the Health Education Authority £300,000 to organise 45 alliances of companies to promote health programmes in small enterprises. The forum has seconded a manager to work with the authority and contribute ideas.

Every alliance will be run by a large company or NHS trust, and the programmes will include talks, seminars, leaflets and other methods of advising employees about healthy eating, exercise and lifestyle. The authority's project will be funded by the Department of Health for two years, after which it is expected to be self-financing.

The forum will also offer its third Working for Health awards this year. The awards go to employers that do most to encourage good health. One of the categories is for businesses with up to 100 employees, and another is for those with up to 500 employees.

Dr Robert Smith, the former Glaxo Wellcome medical officer who chairs the forum, said: "We are not looking for organisations with the biggest budget, but for employers that have proven creativity and initiative in developing wellness programmes."

For further information contact 0171-222 2332.

Rodney Hobson
meets a woman
who took to
globe restoration
almost by chance

GLOBE-RESTORING is the only job that Sylvia Sumira has ever had yet she came across it almost by chance. After completing a history of art degree she took a two-year full-time course in the conservation of paper at what was then Gateshead Technical College.

"You have to know about the different materials that went into the making of paper at different times, and what went into the things people put on paper, such as pigments, inks, glue, and what pencils were made of," she says.

Miss Sumira saw an advertisement for a globe conservator at the Maritime Museum in Greenwich. "It is the largest collection in the world, with 300 items, but they had nobody there specifically concerned with globes." She stayed for four years before deciding to set up on her own nine years ago, attending business courses alongside hairdressers and plumbers.

The globe itself often dictates how long the job is going to take," she says. "The surface area of a sphere is considerably larger than you imagine." Work begins with cleaning. Until that is done it is often impossible to see whether the globe is damaged.

Miss Sumira has had commissions to make new globes — one for an exhibition in Genoa was a replica of the oldest surviving globe, predating Christopher Columbus's voyage to America.

Globes were made from maps printed on paper in segments then stretched onto the curved surface.

Restoring the globe may mean peeling off the paper that the map was printed on and pasting it back down again with the joins exactly in place. As spheres were made in north and south hemispheres then joined, the Equator is particularly vulnerable. Miss Sumira uses an ultrasonic humidifier, a high-tech version of steaming the stamps off envelopes with a kettle, which can be set at varying temperatures. It produces a very fine spray that dampens the paper very gently.

A lot of work comes from

museums and institutions, such as the Royal Society, the Science Museum and the British Library.

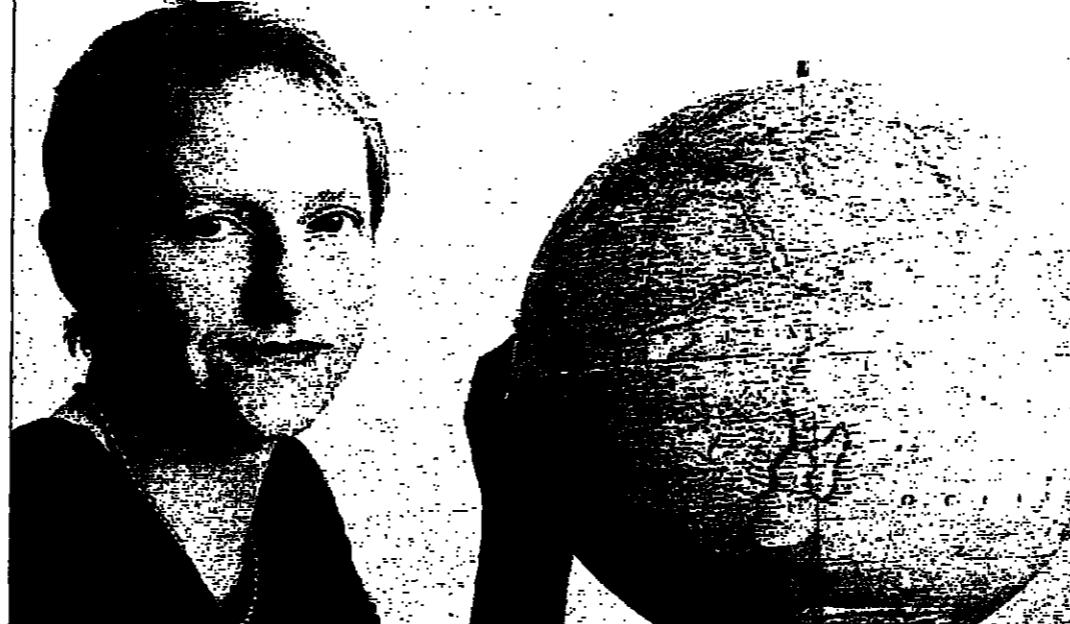
Work has also come from Holland and America and Miss Sumira has been asked to spend a week in the United States advising on the restoration of a globe that is too

fragile to travel. As far as she

knows, she is the only full-time globe conservator in the country.

The largest globe she has handled was 100cm in diameter. She says: "I had to get a special stand made so that I could move the globe around. It was not just the weight

ADRIAN BROOKS



Global view: Sylvia Sumira read art history before taking a special course in paper conservation

but the shape. There was nothing to hold on to — there were pivots at the poles but if you can't reach round from one pole to another you can't move it. I had to move four men from an art restoration to lift it out of the packing case and onto the stand." The oldest globe that has benefited from her expertise was a 1537 celestial globe at the Maritime Museum.

Miss Sumira has had commissions to make new globes — one for an exhibition in Genoa was a replica of the oldest surviving globe, predating Christopher Columbus's voyage to America.

Partnership scheme has Sony in perfect harmony with its Welsh suppliers

By IOLA SMITH

IN 1990 defects plagued more than 40 per cent of components made at Sony's factory in South Wales. Today that failure rate has been reduced to less than 0.5 per cent thanks to a partnership scheme with its suppliers.

More than 100 companies are involved, ranging from inward investors that have come to Wales specifically to service Sony, to small family-owned firms.

Each one goes through the Sony induction programme. This ensures reliable delivery to meet Sony's stringent manufacturing methods, together with a commitment to component quality and what the company calls *modo dori* — the elimination of waste. Accurate labelling, appropriate packaging of components and suppliers' manufacturing methods are carefully monitored at this stage.

Throughout the partnership period, Sony's engineers will provide free advice on improvements in manufacturing processes and on tooling and operating machines.

The company regards partnership as a long-term relationship with suppliers. To reward them, it became the first Japanese company to establish an annual Quality Award for suppliers.

This year's Most Improved Supplier is Radun Controls of Tass's Well near Cardiff. The business has grown from a staff of four to a workforce of 80.

The expansion confirms Cardiff Business School's conclusion that for every one of the 4,000 people employed directly at Sony a further four jobs have been created among local suppliers.

Radun assembles electronic components and develops test equipment

paperwork and other red tape requirements cost small businesses on average 6 per cent of turnover, says a new study by NatWest and the Small Business Research Trust.

A new survey has found that 98 per cent of financial advisers would recommend invoice discounting to their clients. UCB Invoice Discounting, which conducted the survey, has now introduced a scheme whereby the full value to invoices is provided to businesses in advance.

BRIEFINGS

appeal. The guide costs £85, plus £3 postage. Details: 0181-445 2223.

□ Customs and etiquettes to observe when doing business abroad are described in a new book by David Cohen, a psychologist, television producer and film-maker. One of the tips given in the book is to "think of adapting slightly to foreign ways as fun". *How to Succeed on Business Trips* is

published by Sheldon Press at £8.99. More details: 0171-387 5282.

□ A property advice and search service, started by Hertfordshire Business Link, should enable smaller companies that are moving premises within the county to locate the most appropriate property more quickly.

□ Tax and National Insurance

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JULY 9 1996

Queen's Bench Division

Law Report July 9 1996

Power to hear admiralty claim

Centro Latino Americano de Comercio Exterior SA v Owners of the ship Kommunar (No 1)

Before Mr Justice Clarke

[Judgment April 3]

A claim for repayment of sums paid to sub-agents who had supplied goods to a ship from the owner of that ship came within section 202(m) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 so that the Admiralty Court had jurisdiction to entertain such a claim.

Mr Justice Clarke so stated in the Admiralty Court in a reserved judgment given in chambers and released with the permission of the judge when dismissing the defendants' application to set aside the plaintiff's claim for want of jurisdiction.

The plaintiffs, Centro Latino Americano de Comercio Exterior SA, had paid invoices addressed to the vessel and its owners which were presented by sub-agents in respect of items supplied in the defendants' ships. The plaintiffs then sought to recover the amount they paid in respect of those invoices from the defendants. The defendants applied for the proceedings to be set aside because the claim did not fall within section 202 of the 1981 Act nor did it arise in relation to any particular ship.

Section 202 of the 1981 Act provides: "(1) The admiralty jurisdiction of the High Court shall, as follows, that is to say: (a) jurisdiction to hear and determine any of the questions and claims mentioned in subsection (2); (2) The questions and claims referred to in subsection (1)(a) are... (m) any claim in respect of goods or materials supplied to a ship for her operation or maintenance..."

Mr David Steel, QC, for the plaintiffs, Miss Elizabeth Birch for the shipowners.

MR JUSTICE CLARKE said that the question was whether the plaintiffs' claims were claims in respect of goods or materials supplied to those ships for their operation or maintenance.

In his Lordship's judgment, in one sense at least, plainly they were. They were claims to be repaid sums which the plaintiffs had paid to the sub-agents who had supplied the goods. However, it was necessary to have regard to the nature of the alleged contract and to the nature of the plaintiff's business.

It was correct that the plaintiffs were financiers. However, it was the manner was free from

not appear to follow from that that they were unable to bring their claim in the High Court, but section 202 of the 1981 Act was clear from the agreement that the arrangement was that the plaintiffs would appoint sub-agents in South America for the purpose of supplying goods and services to the defendants' ships and that it was the plaintiffs' responsibility to pay invoices rendered to them by the sub-agents.

His Lordship doubted whether that was so under the cases decided under the old statutes. In his Lordship's judgment, it was certainly not so today. None of the cases bound the court to hold that the facts of the present case fell outside section 202(2) of the 1981 Act. The words "in respect of" were with words which should not be unduly restricted.

His Lordship was unable to accept the submission that the claim did not arise "in connection with" any particular ship within section 21(4) of the 1981 Act.

It was clear from the schedule annexed to the statement of claim and from the invoices that each of the claims did arise in connection with a ship. The claims did not arise in connection with the same ship, but that appeared to be immaterial.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co; Lawrence Graham.

Continuity of legal personality destroyed

Centro Latino Americano de Comercio Exterior SA v Owners of the ship Kommunar (No 2)

Before Mr Justice Colman

[Judgment May 22]

The mere transfer of the assets and liabilities of an unincorporated Russian state enterprise to the new privatised company under Russian privatisation legislation was not sufficient to create continuity of legal personality.

Mr Justice Colman so held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an application by AOL, the owners of the ship *Kommunar*, for the arrest of the ship to be set aside. AOL were defendants to a second application before the court made by Centro Latino Americano de Comercio Exterior SA, the plaintiffs, for the appraisal and sale of the ship which had been arrested in Falmouth in November 1995.

The plaintiffs were a wholly owned subsidiary of a former Russian state enterprise providing local management organisation for Russian fishing vessels in Central and South America. They claimed reimbursement of sums paid to third parties for services provided to fishing vessels now owned by AOL.

The plaintiffs contended that at the time the services were provided AOL, a Russian state owned enterprise, was in possession or control of the vessels and would have been

the person who would have been liable in respect of their claim. However, in 1993 AOL was privatised under Russian legislation which involved its being converted into a public joint stock company and renamed AOL.

AOL claimed, inter alia, that the court had no jurisdiction because for the purposes of section 21(4) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 it was not the same legal person as AOL and not therefore at the time of the cause of action arose in possession or control of the vessels.

Mr David Steel, QC and Ms Poonam Melwani for the plaintiffs, Miss Elizabeth Birch for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE COLMAN said that by section 21(4) the legal person who owned the vessel proceeded against had to be the same legal person as that who would have been liable on the claim in an action in personam and who when the cause of action arose was the owner or charterer of or in possession or in control of the ship.

Determination of whether AOL was the same legal entity as AOL had clearly to be made by reference to Russian law. His Lordship considered the Russian privatisation legislation, the conflicting evidence of the experts instructed by the plaintiffs and defendants and the indica of continuity as a matter of general principle.

That the legislation contemplated removal of some of the assets and liabilities indicated

something less than universal success was contemplated. The kind of entity created so fundamentally from the kind of entity that existed up to that time that to describe them as the same juridical person would be entirely improbable.

True that there was no provision for dissolving AOL upon the registration of AOL but the nature of AOL was an unincorporated state enterprise and the effect of privatisation was to divest it of its whole substance. Although it had the attribute of separate legal personality up to the moment of registration in the absence of incorporation there would thereafter have been no residual substance to which legal personality could attach.

His Lordship rejected the contention that what had happened was analogous merely to a change of name; in the absence of express statutory provision as to continuity of the legal personality of the original entity, that ignored the fundamental difference in the legal nature of what privatisation had created.

Although there could be no doubt that there was legal succession of AOL to AOL's assets and liabilities there was nothing inconsistent between that and the discontinuity of legal personality.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co; Lawrence Graham.

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Public policy immunity for police

Silcott v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Waite

[Judgment May 24]

A person whose conviction for a crime was subsequently quashed on the ground that it was unsafe and unsatisfactory could not bring any civil action for conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and misfeasance in public office against police officers investigating the crime, who, he alleged, had an incriminating interview with him because the officers were protected by a rule of absolute immunity conferred as a matter of public policy.

His Lordship doubted whether that was so under the old statutes. In his Lordship's judgment, it was certainly not so today. None of the cases bound the court to hold that the facts of the present case fell outside section 202(2) of the 1981 Act. The words "in respect of" were with words which should not be unduly restricted.

His Lordship was unable to accept the submission that the claim did not arise "in connection with" any particular ship within section 21(4) of the 1981 Act.

It was clear from the schedule annexed to the statement of claim and from the invoices that each of the claims did arise in connection with a ship. The claims did not arise in connection with the same ship, but that appeared to be immaterial.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co; Lawrence Graham.

quashed the convictions on the basis that they were unsafe and unsound.

Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC and Mr Edward Rees for the plaintiff; Mr Robert Seabrook, QC and Mr Duncan MacLeod for the commissioners.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the plaintiff's case was, inter alia, (i) that the notes were a false record which the officers were not "investigating crime" and thus could not benefit from the immunity rule.

That he submitted, was coincidental, just as the fact that oral evidence might be given by the prosecutor in a malicious prosecution case was coincidental. He submitted that in a malicious prosecution against the plaintiff the officers were not "investigating crime" and thus could not benefit from the immunity rule.

Mr Seabrook submitted that the requirement in the tort of malicious prosecution to prove absence of reasonable and probable cause struck what had long been recognised as the right balance between the competing public interests of justice and the protection of officers.

His Lordship would emphasise two matters: first, that the plaintiff's case against the officers, who were acting under the control of the defendant commissioner, had not yet been tried; second, that the two officers had been charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and with perjury, tried at the Central Criminal Court, and acquitted by unanimous jury verdict on each count.

The issue raised on appeal remained as it was identified before: whether the alleged actions of the police officers are protected by a rule of absolute immunity conferred as a matter of public policy.

Lord Williams submitted that the instant case involved the creation of a false document, namely seven pages of manuscript notes purporting to be a contemporaneous record of an incriminating interview with the plaintiff, but in fact a forged sheet invented from first to last.

Such conduct, he argued, was not immune from suit merely

because the officers' own statements and testimony on the issue were prepared for the plaintiff's criminal prosecution.

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NEWS

Seven hurt in machete school attack

■ A man with a machete attacked three nursery school children and four adults yesterday, reviving memories of the Dunblane atrocity and reviving calls for more school security.

A girl aged seven and children as young as three and four, a teacher, school helper and a parent were undergoing surgery last night in Wolverhampton. Police dragged a man from a nearby tower block, but said later the attacker was still being sought.....Page 1

Ulster on brink of fresh violence

■ Ulster stood on the brink of a return to sectarian violence as loyalists clashed with armed police on the second day of a stand-off outside Portadown, Co Armagh. Fears that the protest could jeopardise two years of peace were heightened when a Roman Catholic taxi driver was shot dead.....Page 1

Germ threat foiled

An attempt to extort £250,000 from food companies by threatening to contaminate their products with germs has been smashed in an undercover operation led by Scotland Yard.....Page 1

Life for killer

The son of a wealthy antiques dealer was jailed for life at the Old Bailey for stabbing to death a stranger in a case of mistaken identity.....Page 9

Stalking stress

Seven in ten victims of stalkers show symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and one in ten has contemplated suicide, according to a psychiatrist.....Page 10

Bosnia atrocity

Nearly a year after their disappearance, the men of Srebrenica are reappearing under the shovels of a UN team in eastern Bosnia as exhumations begin at the latest war grave site.....Page 12

French bugging row

France's Defence Ministry admitted ordering the secret service to bug the telephones of key aides to François Léotard, a key figure in the ruling coalition.....Page 13

Volcano spectacular

Glowing rocks larger than cars were spat out by Mount Ruapehu, which erupted again in New Zealand. The volcano spewed out so much ash that eight airports were closed, but sightseers turned up in droves.....Page 14

Post for Sharon

Binjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, succumbed to political blackmail and appointed Ariel Sharon, an arch-hawk, to a senior Cabinet post.....Page 15

Catwalk fight

The Paris couture shows are a war zone as tall, thin Amazonian models battle it out with older, more curvaceous girls. The Amazonas are winning.....Page 3

B A shutdown

British Airways plans to shut down a large part of its Gatwick operation if next week's threatened pilots' strike goes ahead and drags on.....Page 5

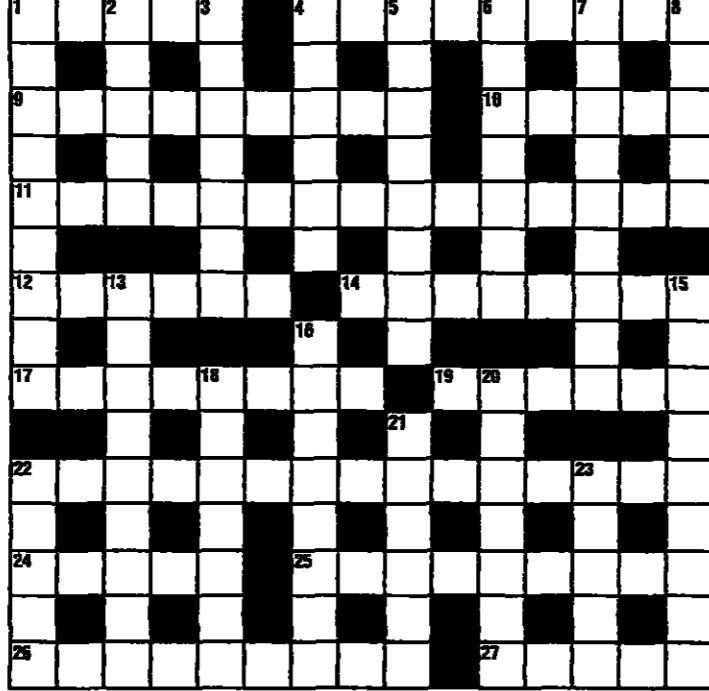
Health drive

A drive to reduce the damaging effects of the environment on health targets air pollution, noise levels and radon gas.....Page 8

Leaders with a Blair for slang

■ Tony Blair, the Labour leader, is included in a dictionary of slang as a phrase to describe flared trousers. "To Blair" also means to mock or humiliate. A Douglas Hurd is a third-class degree. Lady Thatcher gets two entries: the £1 coin was known as a "Thatcher" because it was unpopular and thought it was a sovereign. She also made "handbagging" a verb.....Page 9

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,215



ACROSS

- 1 Clean away second part of liner (3,2).
- 4 Boss? That can be an advantage at first (4,5).
- 9 Vehicle application (9).
- 10 Home secured in highly valued block (5).
- 11 English clerk, say, turned into author (7,8).
- 12 Points – six of them (6).
- 14 Shakespearean adaptor's inseparable companions in nursery (4,4).
- 17 Soldier, in places, an absolutely rational person (8).
- 19 Poet in circle we joined in the fifties (6).
- 22 Don includes article warning players, with prediction important for sport (7,8).
- 24 After protest, bishop is leaving the service (5).
- 25 Played around at university, being financially maintained (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,214

BONECHINA CAMEL
A R H N L E A I
S O P R I S T P I L G R I M
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S T I R A M I A T H R A I R I V I

26 These short pieces, my boy, ain't difficult as that (10).

27 Early English author succeeded, at first, in devious way (5).

DOWN

1 Florentine family with name, to Italian, for ill-treatment? (9).

2 President leading a dance (5).

3 Girl's show in building here in Paris (7).

4 Make sharp with stone, but not too sharp (6).

5 Mixed race man, one found in the melting-pot? (8).

6 Covered in stones hard to put in by oneself (7).

7 A neck and a leg muddy? Get sponge (5,4).

8 Part of habitat typically cheap and nasty (5).

13 They're responsible for vital points in line management (9).

15 Bowled with exhilaration, and not before time (9).

16 President replacing leader of military unit with next character (8).

18 Firm and practice share accommodation (7).

20 Heavy, heavy blow's nothing to us (7).

21 Group of soldiers surrounding university college (6).

22 Extras provided by wife – mostly, that is (5).

23 Play opener in test, bursting with fitness (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest regional weather forecast, 24 hours from 9am, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

- Greater London 701
- Kent/Surrey/Sussex 702
- Devon/Herts & IOW 703
- Wessex 704
- Wales/Gloucester/Somerset 705
- Beds/Herts & Cambs 706
- West Midlands 707
- Shropshire/Wales & Gwent 708
- West Merc & Shropshire/Worcestershire 709
- Central Midland 710
- Lincolnshire 711
- Dyfed & Powys 712
- Wales/North/Wales 713
- W. & Yorks & Derby 714
- Northumbria 715
- S. & W. Scotland 716
- Edin & Fife/Lorham & Borders 717
- Galloway & E. Highlands 718
- N. W. Scotland 719
- Orkney & Shetland 720
- N. Ireland 721

Weathercast is charged at 25p per minute (weekdays) and 40p per minute at all other times.

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For the latest AA traffic roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks 731

Edinburgh, Bristol, Gloucester, Cardiff, Swansea 732

Wales, Northern Ireland 733

Scotland 734

Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee 735

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